

Black tie me up! Black tie me down!
Mister Marcus gives a preview of this
Friday's Leather Extravaganza.

page 44

Going to pot...
From farms in the north
to clubs in the East Bay.

page 14



It's to laugh
'Universal Laughter' series
at the Castro Theatre.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 34 • 20 August 1998

Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 27 years

It ain't over yet

You could
be infected
with drug-
resistant HIV

by Don Howard,
ACT UP/Golden Gate
Writers Pool

This is another report from the
Geneva World AIDS Conference.

People in San Francisco are being infected with HIV that is resistant to currently available drug therapies, according to research presented at the 12th World AIDS Conference in Geneva last month. University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) doctors documented a case in which a man was infected with a strain of HIV that didn't respond to combination drug therapy. When the infected man's HIV was analyzed, it was shown to be resistant to all anti-HIV drugs, including all available protease inhibitors.

For many people this came as shocking news. Even for gay men who live in ground-zero HIV cities like San Francisco, the news has been greeted with surprise or with denial. But researchers have long known that it was possible to transmit HIV that is resistant to AZT. It was only a matter of time before protease inhibitor-resistant HIV was documented. And they suspect that, as more and more people take anti-HIV drugs and fail the drugs, the pool of multi-drug resistant virus will grow. This means the chances of being infected with an un-

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SF court awards \$25K to man exposed by partner to HIV

by Mark Mardon



Mychael Robinson

A San Francisco man who sued the man he calls his ex-husband for sexual battery, charging that he was unknowingly exposed to but not infected by HIV, has been awarded \$25,000 in damages plus court costs, "for the pain and suffering he experienced during the six-month period after exposure and before conclusive testing."

Citing California law that makes it a duty to disclose one's sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV infection, prior to sexual activity, United States Bankruptcy Judge Dennis Montali ruled that plaintiff Mychael Robinson was entitled to the monetary award from defendant Alan Louie because Louie had failed to disclose his HIV-positive status before the two engaged repeatedly in unprotected anal intercourse.

The adversary proceeding, which started out in a San Francisco superior court in October 1996, ended up in bankruptcy court

after Louie filed a Chapter 7 petition to avoid having to pay Robinson monetary damages.

"One who intentionally causes a sexually offensive contact is liable for a sexual battery," wrote Montali in his August 3 ruling. "The act of sexual intercourse clearly constitutes intentional sexual contact. If the sexual contact is not consented to, it is also offensive."

While Robinson consented to having unprotected sex with Louie (always as the insertive partner), he did not consent to exposure to HIV. He maintained, and the court concurred, that Louie concealed his HIV status from Robinson. Only when Robinson discovered a bottle of AZT hidden in a closet in the home the couple shared did he learn that Louie was positive.

Like Rock Hudson

In making his ruling, Montali paid close attention to Louie's argument that gay men in

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Fire guts gay commish's popular SOMA restaurant

by Cynthia Laird

A three-alarm fire destroyed the Eleven Restaurant and Bar, one of the South of Market district's better known eateries, last Sunday, August 16. Fire department officials estimate \$1.6 million in damage to the premises at 378 11th street and its contents, owned by openly gay San Francisco Police Commissioner Edward Petrillo.

Arson investigators with the San Francisco Fire Department said they are looking at the fire "as being intentionally set," according to Lieutenant Ed Campbell, department spokesman.

"Witnesses saw a debris box burning right next to the building," Campbell told the Bay Area Reporter. "There was major damage to the restaurant." The fire started in a debris box or dumpster around 9 p.m. and quickly went to three alarms. Eleven is not open on Sundays, and there were no injuries

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Eleven restaurant is not open for lunch, or anything else, because of Sunday evening's fire.

Court hears case of Canadian lesbian bashed on Muni

by Timothy Rodrigues

Two teenagers must stand trial for the assault of a 30-year-old Micmac Indian lesbian, visiting from Canada, that took place on a 30 Stockton Muni bus the afternoon of December 12, 1997 a judge ruled Friday, August 14.

The defendants, Lamarr D. McCoy, and

Trinette M. Pinson, both 19 years old at the time of the incident, will stand trial on felony and misdemeanor charges respectively for their alleged involvement in the attack that left Rosanne Ellen Gervais with bruises, contusions, a bloody face, an eye injury, and ongoing severe headaches and other injuries, both physical and emotional.

The preliminary hearing, eight months after the assault, and the process leading up

to it — including two continuances of the hearing — caused Gervais to "feel like a victim all over again."

Gervais, visiting her lover, has been staying in shelters in San Francisco waiting for the trial, lost her apartment and job back in Canada, and has been seeing a therapist for depression since the attack.

"This has had a terrible effect on us," said

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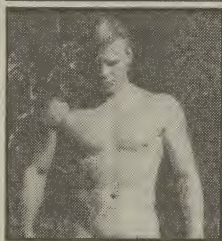


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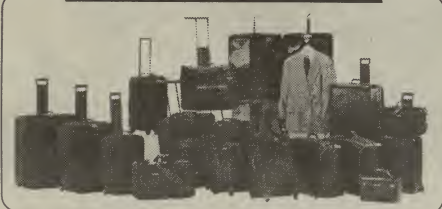
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SF, ATA talks collapse over partners law

by Cynthia Laird

Talks between San Francisco officials and airlines over implementation of the city's landmark equal benefits ordinance broke down late Tuesday, August 18, setting the stage for United Airlines to file suit on its own to fight the law. At issue are contracts between the city and airlines – notably United – involving San Francisco International Airport.

In April, U.S. District Court Judge Claudia Wilken upheld the city's law requiring companies doing business with the city to offer benefits to domestic partners of employees if those benefits are offered to spouses. Wilken's decision ruled that in most circumstances the city can

require contractors to offer domestic partner benefits to employees. Regarding the airlines, however, Wilken ruled that airlines having city contracts do not have to offer health and pension benefits. The city can require them to offer other benefits, such as travel. It was those other benefits that city officials and representatives from the Air Transport Association were mediating. Wilken had ordered both sides to attempt to mediate the issues.

Both the City Attorney's office and the ATA issued a joint statement Tuesday after talks collapsed. "The parties have come to better understand each other's position by participating in this process. However, they have not been able to reach a resolution of the case," the statement read. "All

parties acted in good faith and participated responsibly and diligently in alternative dispute resolution, and the failure to reach a resolution cannot be blamed on any party or participant. The litigation between the city and ATA raises important legal issues which will have to be resolved by the court."

Sources close to the matter said they expect United to file a separate suit regarding the matter soon. United is the largest carrier at the airport and its leases on new ground kitchen and maintenance facilities at SFO expire August 30. The city contends United has to comply with the law by then; United maintains there should be no deadline until all litigation arising from Wilken's ruling is exhausted. ▼

APA gives same-sex couples the thumbs up

by Ed Susman,
UPI Science News

The American Psychological Association (APA) took up the issue of same-sex partner benefits during the organization's annual meeting in San Francisco last week.

The policy setting council of the APA, the Council of Representatives, said Sunday, August 16 there is no difference between same-sex and different-sex couples in judgment, stability, or

work capabilities, nor is there a difference between children raised in those households. Therefore the council said same-sex partners should receive the same benefits as those in traditional marriages.

Christine Browning, president of the APA's Society for the Psychological Study of Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Issues, said, "Although the psychological research has found no differences among lesbian, gay and heterosexual families that justify discrimination, the absence of access to the benefits that typically accrue automat-

ically to married heterosexual couples puts such families at risk when a medical emergency arises or in the event of a premature death."

Other benefits include property rights, healthcare decision-making, estate planning, tax consequences, and adoption concerns.

The council's decision came as anti-gay forces published an ad in the *San Francisco Examiner* Sunday that suggested homosexuality was a "lifestyle choice" that could – and should – be changed. ▼

Ambiente club to host summer party, endorsement meeting Saturday

by Cynthia Laird

The Ambiente Latino Democratic Club's (ALDC) general membership meeting will be combined with the group's first summer brunch party this Saturday, August 22. The Latino/a lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender club will also vote on its political action committee's (PAC) recommendation to early endorse Mayor Willie Brown, said John Lira, one of the club's co-chairs.

The club's membership will vote on endorsements for the upcoming

Board of Supervisors race, where five seats are on the ballot. The mayor's race is not until November 1999, but Brown has been going to various political club and organization meetings seeking the unprecedented early endorsements.

The ALDC PAC has recommended an early endorsement for the mayor. For the supervisors races, the group has recommended backing Supervisors Mark Leno and Gavin Newsom, as well as openly gay Latino Victor Marquez, a member of the city's Democratic Central Committee who's tossed his hat in the ring for

supervisor, Lira said.

Lira said that any interested people are welcome to attend the meeting and brunch party as well as to join the club. The event will be held at 9 Southern Heights, in the Potrero Hill District. Dr. Carlota del Portillo, president of the San Francisco Board of Education, will be the guest speaker. ▼

The brunch and meeting will be held from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. For more information, call Anthony Uribe at (415) 239-6612.

Poll: Most support gay rights laws

United Press International

Pollster Humphrey Taylor says the Christian Coalition and the right wing of the Republican Party may believe that taking a firm stand against homosexuality is good politics, but a new Harris poll results show otherwise.

The poll finds 41 percent prefer Democratic policies on gay rights and sexual orientation, compared to 23 percent who favor Republican policies.

The poll, released Wednesday, August 19, finds a modest majority of American adults – 52 percent – favor laws that make it illegal to discriminate against gays, while 41 percent oppose such

laws.

Just more than a third of the 623 adults surveyed say they have close friends or relatives who are gay. Surprisingly, those who have gay friends or relatives are no more likely to support anti-discrimination laws than those who do not.

The poll finds support for gay rights and anti-discrimination laws stands at 65 percent among liberals, 54 percent among moderates, and 42 percent among conservatives.

Such support is only marginally stronger among Democrats than among Republicans, at 52 percent to 50 percent.

Fifty-six percent of the women polled support anti-discrimination laws, compared to 48 percent

of men. Sixty-two percent of those from the Midwest, 58 percent from the East, and 43 percent from the South support such laws.

Support for anti-discrimination laws is highly correlated with the education of those polled, rising from 34 percent of those who never graduated from high school to 62 percent of those with a college degree.

Taylor says the results show that if everyone in the country felt strongly about the issue, it would tend to help Democrats and hurt Republicans.

However, the pollster says that for most people, it is not a top-tier issue and probably has little impact except among voters who are gay, or those who really hate homosexuals. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Gay men named to city commissions

New members for HRC, film and video arts

by Cynthia Laird

Two openly gay men were among some 37 new and returning commissioners sworn in by Mayor Willie Brown during a ceremony Friday, August 14 at City Hall. The new gay commissioner is Stephen J. Herman, who was named to the Human Rights Commission (HRC), while William E. Villa was moved from the Arts Commission to the Film and Video Arts Commission.

"Accepting a role of commissioner is more than a wonderful title," Brown told a packed room of friends and family members of the numerous commissioners. "You are no longer a civilian, you are now in a position where everybody is entitled to be heard and to be heard objectively."

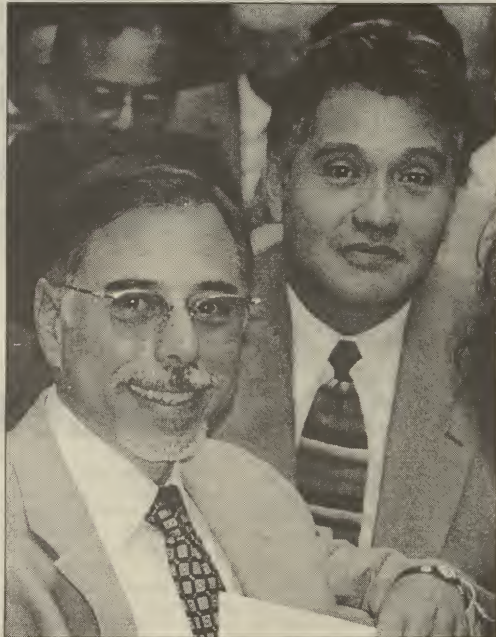
Herman, director of administrative services for City College of San Francisco, has been involved in minority coalition activities for years. In the early 1970s he taught a highly successful poetry workshop at City College. In the workshop, which was offered for more than 10 years, he explored many themes of diversity with his students, including lesbian and gay themes of some of the greatest American poets.

In the early 1980s, Herman worked closely with Dr. Tim Wolfred in founding the Gay and Lesbian Educational Services Committee (GLESC) and co-chaired the organization in its formative years. He was part of the group that developed the community college district's current non-discrimination language and worked closely with Wolfred and other GLESC members in assuring funding for the Castro/Valencia Center and a full time AIDS coordinator for the college district.

"I want to work closely with my fellow commissioners in order to celebrate and protect the city's diversity, insure compliance with city ordinances protecting equal benefits, and provide a fair backdrop for hearing issues and recommending solutions to issues that come before the commission," said Herman.

Herman becomes the second openly gay person on the HRC; longtime lesbian activist Martha Knutzen is also on the body. The HRC is responsible for overseeing the city's landmark equal benefits ordinance as well as investigating reported incidents of discrimination and other matters.

Previous community work



Stephen Herman (left) and William Villa at swearing in ceremony

done by Herman in the 1980s and 1990s includes stints on the advisory boards of the former Operation Concern, where he was membership chair, and the AIDS Health Project, where he was vice president and president.

Herman lives with his partner of 28 years, Michael Lipp. He has a range of supervisory administrative experiences and is a member of various local gay and lesbian Democratic clubs.

From arts to film

Villa, a small businessman in the real estate profession, said he's looking forward to moving to the Film and Video Arts Commission, which deals with promoting the city to movie, commercial, and other production companies. Villa said the body "tries to smooth the path," in bringing production companies into San Francisco.

"I think commissions are set up to listen to the public," Villa told the *Bay Area Reporter*, adding that he's seen his share of heated debates when he served on the Arts Commission. Public art proposals such as the giant foot downtown and the peace symbol in Golden Gate Park sparked con-

troversy and led to packed commission meetings, Villa recalled.

There's a lot to be worked out when production firms come to town. For example, the city's street artists go through a lottery to see where they can set up their tables every day. If the spot they've been assigned is used by a film company, the artists are "blown out of the water," for that day and are paid a disruption fee by the company, Villa explained.

Currently, Villa said the city is featured in several television commercials, including one for Visa that shows Michael Tilson Thomas, musical director of the San Francisco Symphony.

Villa is no stranger to public service. Former Mayor Art Agnos appointed him to the rent board, where he served for over four years; Brown named him to the Arts Commission about a year and a half ago before making the change last week.

In the 1980s, Villa was a television production specialist and consulted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. His experience includes corporate management, business and public relations, and customer relations. ▼

East Bay bereavement group forming

by Timothy Rodrigues

Visiting Nurses Association and Hospice (VNA) of Northern California will host a bereavement support group in Emeryville next month for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) adults who have recently experienced the death of someone close.

The group is open to members of the greater Bay Area community and will be led by Daniel Potashyn, a member of the LGBT

community with an master's degree in psychology. It is intended to help people who are grieving the death of a family member, partner, or friend.

The group's goal is intended to help "people who are having a hard time getting over the death or loss of a loved one," said Wenisa Conedy, spokesperson for VNA, and will provide a safe place for members of the LGBT community to deal with grief and loss. She added that at times it does not appear as if someone is grieving when actually they are processing

a great sense of loss.

The group will meet for eight consecutive Thursdays, starting on September 3, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in Emeryville. Pre-registration is required, and new members will not be accepted once sessions begin.

A donation of \$5-25 is requested although no one will be turned away due to inability to pay. ▼

For more information, call the bereavement department at (510) 450-8596.

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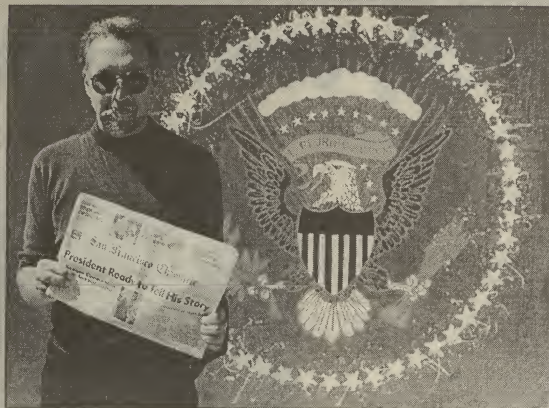
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All hail the spoo stained banner

Rainbow-flag creator Gilbert Baker unveiled his latest work of public art in front of the S.F. Museum of Modern Art on Monday, August 17, as President Clinton was testifying before a grand jury about his affair with "that woman." The 8' x 10' oil-and-semen-on-canvas painting depicts the presidential seal with 50 stars splattered with sperm. "This is a seminal moment in our country," said Baker, "and I wanted to encapsulate it for posterity."



Marc Geller

UCSF has new LGBT resource center

by Cynthia Laird

The University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) has joined the ranks of over 50 institutions of higher education that have established resource centers and programs for their lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students, faculty, and staff. The UCSF center has been in operation since mid-June, with the arrival of its first coordinator, Michael Scarce, who is openly gay.

A survey completed over a year ago by the Chancellor's Committee on Diversity indicated that the climate of homophobia at UCSF was significant enough to warrant closer attention. A result of that finding was the establishment of LGBT Resources, as it's called, on campus, to which former Chancellor Haile Debas gave the go-ahead in January. Scarce, who was hired earlier this year, comes to UCSF from Ohio State University, where he was coordinator of its Rape Education and Prevention Program.

"I'm getting settled in and it's a little different here, we're all graduate and health-science focused," Scarce told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

The role of the LGBT coordinator was envisioned as a liaison, advisor, and educator position, to teach people "about the effects of their behavior, the consequences of homophobia, and how these affect employment and academic environments," said Amy Levine, director of UCSF's Women's Resource Center. "There are several existing LGBT organizations on campus doing really positive work and this position is not meant to take over any work that's been done, but to build on it and coordinate those efforts," Levine said.

LGBT Resources is part of a restructuring of the Women's Resource Center, which will officially become the Center for Gender Equity on September 1.

Scarce is in the midst of planning the resource center's first steps while developing a resource library and making contacts throughout the community. He plans to organize programming that will help foster a more welcoming environment for students, faculty, and staff.

"Slowly, institutions of higher education have realized that campuses have not been a very hospitable climate for LGBT faculty, staff, and students. If only for the

sake of basic retention, we need to do more," Scarce said. He views the center's importance in terms of fulfilling UCSF's academic mission and creating an equitable climate for the entire UCSF community. "As an all-health sciences campus, it is also especially relevant to a community of health care professionals. We need to better prepare our students, service providers, and researchers for working with LGBT people and issues," he added.

Scarce is the author of two books, *Male on Male Rape: The Hidden Toll of Stigma and Shame*, and the forthcoming *Smearing the Queer: Science and Gay Male Sexual Health*.

UCSF is not the first UC campus to have a LGBT resources program — in fact, Santa Cruz, Riverside, Los Angeles, Irvine, and Davis all have centers — however, not all are staffed by paid professionals. ▼

LGBT Resources, part of the Center for Gender Equity, is located in the Woods Building on the Parnassus campus of UCSF. For more information, call Scarce at (415) 502-5593.

Radical Women host labor panel

by Liz Highleyman

Bay Area Radical Women will host a panel discussion this Sunday, August 23, on the leadership role of women in the labor movement. The event celebrates Women's Rights Day, which commemorates the 150th anniversary of the Seneca Falls Conference, considered by many to be the galvanizing event of the modern feminist movement.

The forum, entitled "Why Women Need Unions and Unions Need Women," will highlight the role women have played as leaders of the labor movement in the Bay Area, including their part in various recent local

struggles for unionization.

Panelists include Nellie Wong, a delegate to the San Francisco Labor Council; Cindy Wiesner of Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees (HERE); and representatives of the California Nurses' Association and the Exotic Dancers Alliance (EDA).

Wong will discuss women's activism in recent labor efforts including the 1997 United Postal Service strike and this year's Kaiser nurses strike. According to Wong, "Labor solidarity is making a comeback, but the crucial role women have played in these struggles is often overlooked." Wiesner will discuss HERE's unfair labor practice

complaints against the Lafayette Park Hotel. The EDA representative will discuss unionizing efforts at the Lusty Lady peep show, one of the first successful organizing efforts by sex workers in the nation. ▼

The forum will be held at New Valencia Hall at 1908 Mission Street in San Francisco. The panel will take place at 3 p.m., followed by a dinner at 5. A donation of \$3 for the panel discussion and \$8 for the dinner is requested. For more information or to inquire about work exchange or child care, call (415) 864-1278.

Ammiano: Examiner should donate money from ex-gay ad

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco Supervisor Tom Ammiano on Monday, August 17 urged the San Francisco Newspaper Agency, fiscal agent of the *San Francisco Chronicle* and the *San Francisco Examiner*, to donate \$35,000 to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD). The money is the amount a coalition of 18 Christian groups paid to place a full-page ad promoting a "cure" for homosexuality in the Sunday, August 16 *Examiner*.

The openly gay Ammiano maintained that the ad's blatant misinformation, rather than censorship, was what prompted him to introduce a resolution calling for the donation to GLAAD. "Free speech does not justify publishing - for profit - inflammatory views that are racist, sexist, homophobic, or otherwise offensive to a segment of the population," Ammiano's resolution stated.

The full Board of Supervisors is expected to vote on the resolution this Monday, August 24.

The ad that ran last Sunday was similar to a series of ads that a group of right wing Christian organizations has been running in newspapers across the country in recent weeks. The San Francisco ad pictured numerous people identified as being "ex-gays."

Ammiano told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he's a defender of free speech and does not believe in censorship. "It is an ad that's definitely putting out misinformation," he said. "If the Human Rights Campaign put out an ad that said gay people are normal,

that's correct, to me, that's not incorrect."

The board's other two gay supervisors, Mark Leno and Leslie Katz, supported Ammiano's resolution.

Although the *Chronicle* rejected the ad, the *Examiner* published it, but ran an editorial in the same edition that seriously questioned many of the ad's statements. In the paper's opinion, the ad "represents a perversion of Christian ideals," read part of the editorial.

Jim Sevrens, general manager of the *Examiner*, said, "We proudly support many organizations and community groups which comprise the diverse Bay Area through financial grants and sponsorships. Over the years, these have included summer camps for at-risk kids, art programs for homeless children, and numerous AIDS organizations - Project Open Hand, Until There's a Cure Day, Under One Roof, and the San Francisco AIDS Emergency Fund. We will continue to serve our community in these ways."

Ammiano said that as a follow-up gesture to their editorial, the *Examiner* should donate the money to GLAAD because the organization combats defamation. "Several right wing Christian organizations have begun a national ad campaign proclaiming that homosexuality can be 'cured' and suggesting that sexually transmitted diseases are a punishment from God," the resolution stated. "Locally, GLAAD has spearheaded efforts to combat hate crimes and intolerance that are often spurred by such rhetoric." ▼



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SFPD arrests homeless man in death of gay man

by Timothy Rodrigues

San Francisco police are holding a 37-year-old homeless man on murder, robbery, and burglary charges, implicated in the death of a gay man that he reportedly accompanied home, possibly for sex.

Officers discovered Donald Ray Morrison, 66, dead in his flat at 583 Grove Street about 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday, August 11. They had responded to a 911 call from a homeless man who reported that when he had stopped by to visit Morrison and knocked on the door, he heard the victim calling for help and the voice of an unfamiliar person telling him to leave.

Morrison, who had just returned from a vacation in San Diego at 7 a.m. that morning, was found with his hands and feet bound by electrical wire, ac-

cording to San Francisco Police Department Inspector Napoleon Hendrix. His pockets were turned inside out, but there were no visible marks on the body.

According to police sources, the victim's roommate reported that Morrison had an interest in bringing homeless men home for sexual relations.

A witness working in the alley behind the home saw the suspect, Edwin Valencia, leaving the flat through a window. Officers arrested Valencia in the alley with a duffel bag containing cash and personal belongings.

The cause of death is under investigation, but Morrison was reportedly in bad health and may have succumbed to a heart attack as a result of the incident, according to Hendrix. Valencia is scheduled to appear for an instruction and arraignment hearing on Monday, August 31. ▼

DREAMS DO COME TRUE FOR LOCAL ATHLETES

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An ad mission of failure

Last Sunday's *San Francisco Examiner* contained an advertisement suggesting homosexuality is a human defect to be cured. The ad, part of a series that popped up elsewhere in America over the last month, may have served two purposes for the religious right groups that placed them: parting some foolish gays and lesbians from their money, which gets funneled into the pockets of "ex-gay" group leaders; and exposing our community to scrutiny at a time when we may be least ready for it because we are angry and hostile.

As the religious right launched the ad campaign, it simultaneously revved up a verbal smear campaign accusing gays and lesbians of being "intolerant of Christian" views (meaning some very narrowly-defined version of evangelism) or anyone outside some mythical gay orthodoxy.

The community's response to the *Examiner* ad may make it seem as if the right is right.

We've heard some San Francisco gays and lesbians denouncing the paper as if the ad were an editorial written by its staffers - Supervisor Tom Ammann has even introduced a measure to punish the paper economically for its acceptance. That's exactly the intolerance the right wing was hoping for.

Yes, everyone has a right to be angry that so much homophobic stupidity is out there, but no, nobody has the right to turn the *Examiner* into Our Censor. In fact, everyone should resist that possibility since any paper allowed to refuse an anti-gay ad today can refuse a pro-gay ad tomorrow - as, in fact, most routinely did until fairly recently. Considering how many gay activists worked to get the process opened, it would be terrible if other gay activists closed it.

The gang that put the ad in our back yard obviously did it to provoke a riot. We

hope cool heads prevail, and that the right wing is disappointed by the lack of reaction - and that the costly ad wound up gaining them absolutely nothing.

That doesn't mean anyone has to be passive if they're feeling enraged by the ads. As they should. The best use for that anger is to follow through on what the ad called for: a national dialogue on homosexuality. Let's get to it. If you haven't come out by now, do so. Call someone who doesn't know about your sexuality, and make it clear that every time the far right makes gay and lesbian people into

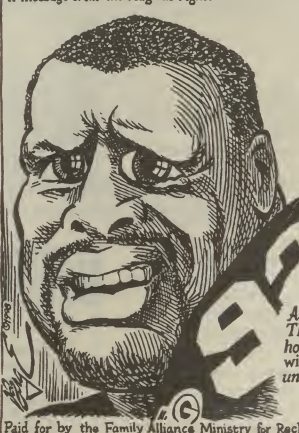
the enemy, you're one of those people. Tell your great-aunt or your shop teacher from junior high school or your best friend from third grade that you're perfectly fine, thanks, and you don't need to be cured of homosexuality. Or if you think that's unseemly, call the people who need to hear it most. Exodus International, the "cure" group, can be reached at (888) 264-0877, where we're sure they'd love to hear how wrong they are.

Be gentle with them, though, and tolerant; put yourself in their shoes and think about how unhappy they must be as they live their lives. ▼



Editorial

A message from the religious right:



In defense of free speech.

Recently, Reggie White, Trent Lott, and Angie and Debbie Winans called homosexuals unnatural, compared them to alcoholic kleptomaniacs and said they are responsible for all the evil in the world. Homosexual activists then viciously attacked them as "backward," "bigoted" and "homophobic."

YOU CAN'T TALK TO US LIKE THAT!

As people who speak for God, we deserve respect. There cannot be a free discussion about homosexuality until everyone who disagrees with us shuts up. And that includes that American pinko fornicator in the White House.

If you love someone, tough!

Paid for by the Family Alliance Ministry for Reclaiming America from You Godless Pinko Fornicators

Declining deaths: another view

by David Pasquarelli

The Bay Area Reporter's celebratory "No Obits" cover story on August 13 begs a much more troubling question that is on everyone's mind - how, after two decades of the infectious-AIDS scare, can reported cases and deaths be dropping so dramatically?

The B.A.R., San Francisco Department of Public Health, and AIDS service organizations seem content to simply attribute the national decline in reported AIDS cases and deaths to new experimental drug regimens. That explanation, however, is inadequate and misleading for the following reasons: (1) AIDS cases and deaths have been declining for years; (2) there has been no explosion of HIV infection in the United States; and (3) combination therapy with protease inhibitors was introduced too late and has failed too many patients to account for the AIDS drop.

The first truth is that AIDS has been vanishing for years. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) *HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report* (Vol. 9, No. 2), AIDS cases and deaths for all ethnic groups, sexes, sexual orientations, and ages peaked between 1993 and 1995 and have since continued to steadily fall.

More importantly, the actual number (not misleading percentage ratios) of U.S. AIDS cases in all groups has been phenomenally low for a country with a population of 260 million people. For example, the following AIDS cases were reported to the CDC for 1997:

- 26,783 African-Americans (down from 31,515 in 1993)
- 13,105 adult/adolescent women (down from 14,309 in 1993)
- 12,356 Hispanics (down from 15,749 in 1993)
- 8,112 heterosexuals (down from 8,585 in 1994)
- 2,234 young men and women aged 13 to 24 (down from 3,472 in 1992)
- 445 Asians (down from 636 in 1993)
- 204 Native-Americans (down from 241

in 1993)

Without trivializing the lives lost, these numbers aren't even blips on the radar screen of what America should be experiencing from infectious-AIDS especially when compared to heart disease, cancer, and past medical crises like the bubonic plague or the flu epidemic of 1918. Which brings us to the second truth: HIV has not behaved like any other sexually transmissible contagious virus.

Twelve years ago *Newsweek* warned that "by 1991 HIV, in all probability, will have spread to between 5 million and 10 million Americans" (*AIDS: Grim Prospects*, *Newsweek*, November 10, 1986). That never happened. In fact, since that article appeared the CDC has continuously revised downward its estimate of the HIV-infected from 1.5 to 2 million Americans in the mid-1980s to a current low of 400,000 to 600,000.

Closer to home, a recent study co-authored by Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz showed that new HIV infections of San Francisco gay men inexplicably peaked at 7,600 back in 1982 - years before the initiation of any safe-sex campaigns. The study also revealed that since 1987, San Francisco has maintained a mysteriously steady rate of 500 new HIV infections per year despite increases in other sexually transmitted diseases. As the authors pointed out, this information is critical because "our analysis shows that San Francisco would have experienced a significant decline in AIDS cases due to the decrease in HIV seroconversions, even if combination antiretroviral therapy had not been developed." (Projected incidence of AIDS in San Francisco: the peak and decline of an epidemic, *Journal of AIDS and Human Retrovirology*, November 1997; Vol. 16, No. 3: 182-189)

Clearly, the fact that the spread of HIV stalled almost two decades ago is proof that we have never been in the grip of an exploding viral "epidemic."

The final truth is that any attempt to explain away the decline in AIDS deaths as

something attributable to combination therapy with protease inhibitors is anachronistic and contrary to what we know about these drugs.

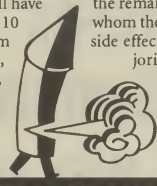
Protease inhibitors hit the market in 1996 - three years after the AIDS drop began. An estimated 60,000 to 100,000 individuals started taking them. Medical studies confirmed that from the very start these drugs didn't work in about half of those people. Impossible dosing schedules caused compliance failures in a large percentage of the remaining patient population, many of whom then decided to quit therapy. Wicked side effects disfigured and damaged a majority of the compliant patients who, like the ones that couldn't handle the dosing schedule, also decided to give up on the pills. This is real-world protease. Yet, the media, DPH, and AIDS organizations now irrationally proclaim that protease inhibitors are somehow responsible for

the reduction in AIDS deaths despite very few people properly taking them or experiencing clinical benefit and contrary to the aforementioned study that specifically warned against doing so. It's obvious by talking to queers on the street that the protease scam is not resolving AIDS.

The time has come for the gay community to face the hard truths of what has been so plainly evident since 1993: AIDS is collapsing because HIV doesn't cause it. Immune system activation as detected by an antibody test is not an infectious death sentence. People are living healthy lives because they stopped - or never started - taking anti-HIV drugs. And the "AIDS" deaths we have endured for so long were caused by aggressive and unnecessary medical intervention dictated by scientifically-bankrupt HIV hysteria.

Unfortunately, this painful reality is no cause for celebration. ▼

The author is a member of the AIDS dissident group HEAL San Francisco.



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Telling the truth

"If you love someone, you'll tell them the truth."

This is the first heading of a full page ad placed in the Sunday, August 16, *Examiner/Chronicle* by a coalition of "Christian" groups, saying gays can change.

I am a member of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) and the mother of a gay son. And so I want to tell him, his partner and all gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered (GLBT) people the truth.

You are loved for who you are! We think you are valuable, funny, sensitive, bright, able, creative, healthy, and above all human beings worthy of love.

You have taught us more about compassion, acceptance, and unconditional love than we ever could have learned in our safe suburban worlds. You have helped us feel a part of a vibrant and gutsy community. You have introduced us to Josie's Cabaret and Juice Joint, A Different Light (where my husband once knocked on the door after midnight to get me a copy of *Dykespeak*), and the Castro Theater (where my husband and I made the *faux pas* of sitting behind our son and his first date). You have increased our awareness politically, culturally, and helped us to respect diversity. You are loved - not for who we wish you would be - but for the shining, special individuals you are inside.

If you are GLBT and you can't tell the truth to your families, come to PFLAG and tell it to us. We are loving parents who can hear your truth and help you express it or know it deeply inside yourself. If you are parents or family members of GLBT, you can also come to PFLAG to share your truth. We will listen, not judge, and help you to dialogue with your children. And even if you already know how precious your children are, you can help us.

Call PFLAG at (415) 921-8850 or e-mail us at pflags@aol.com. If you can't tell the truth to anyone else - tell us.

Laura Siegel
San Francisco PFLAG

Tax-tossin' Tom

[The following was sent to B.A.R. political editor Wayne Friday:]

We know you heart Ammiano but we don't vote for leader of the pack of supervisors. If it's Ammiano, you know the line, shit happens and it goes to the top vote getter. That's how we got Feinstein as mayor. Shit rises to the top, too.

Your most amazing pro-Tommy line was that he'd stand up to threatening and demanding general assistance thugs, unlike the current Stupes. Nobody has caved in and covered and cravenly pandered to the criminal underclass of welfare bums than Ammiano. While the vandals and vagrants are tearing down Golden Gate Park, he's looking (with Leslie Katz) for ways to help "at-risk youth." His solution to predatory bums of Haight and Castro is to accept them as "neighbors" and throw tax money at them. It's "compassion" to steal tax money from law-abiding, tax-paying citizens and hand it over to thugs. We all know the punks on the streets (Haight/Castro) would kill or rob a fag at the slightest opportunity, but Tommy is in Berkeley on the streets looking for new ways to cater to these vermin. *Bay Guardian* a few weeks ago noted his crusade to provide "help" to street prostitutes - the same people who destroy my block, the Tenderloin and Polk.

At least having the Jersey Jerk as lead Stupe would be amusing. Given his arrogant personality, he's alienated almost everyone who matters and the mayor despises him. Supervisor meetings should be entertaining, if unproductive. I'm sure he hasn't helped himself any by boxing in the entire legislative contingent to have to defend a stupidly written domestic partners law that he refuses to acknowledge is flawed because of his arrogance and stupidity in producing it, but insists is only targeted because its enemies are evil. (Like Clinton, Ammiano's domestic partners law has the virtue of having enemies who are absolute jerks.)

Since he doesn't know that a representative is supposed to "represent" the people not give us his ideas as if it were a standup abuse act, we could hear him mouth off endlessly with his standup comedy act stupidly yapping on some of his favorite topics - imagined and fabricated police abuse, falling satellites, etc. He could give one populist pandering speech on going to the trenches for The People against a 911 tax and then, when the cameras are off, sell out the people and vote for it. It's politics, everybody does it.

It might be expensive, as the wholly-owned agent of the greedy wild-spending SFDPH. And given his (via Sandy and Mitch and Dana) position of medicalizing to criminalize gay sex (which Randy S., DiFi, Merv, and Reggie White have periodically endorsed) it will be bad for gays, but we've survived Roy Cohen [sic], we can survive Ammiano, although whether anyone can or would live in a city run by sluts, junkies, and begging predators designed by Ammiano is open to question.

Jerry Jansen
San Francisco

Remember victims to remember victims

There were, of course, many tens of thousands of homosexuals among the victims of the Holocaust; murdered either for that reason or because they were also Jews. Who are their heirs?

Morally, I believe each generation of homosexuals is the heir of those which proceeded. On behalf of those who perished in the concentration camps, I should like to suggest that both the Jews and the Swiss contribute \$30 or \$40 million each from the "Nazi gold" to a memorial fund to be spent on the millions of AIDS orphans in Africa.

As the United Nations has noted, there are over eight million of them already, and "As the number of orphans grows ... traditional coping mechanisms stretch to the breaking point." They can have my share.

David John Pini
San Francisco

Science and superstition

I thought your readers might be interested in the response that I received from the Reverend Dr. Mel White requesting some reference on the "scientific research" which "demonstrates clearly that God created us and loves us exactly as we are."

His response:

"Actually, it's an overstatement and I'm glad you caught it. I won't say it that way again. There is a sufficiency of evidences that says that homosexual orientation is a rather complex and even mysterious combination of pre-natal forces that cannot and should not be changed.

There's where science ends and faith begins ... but you caught me in an assumption that faith makes, not science, and I will not say it again that way."

I do wish theologians would stick to their superstitions and not try to teach science.

Dick Hewetson
San Francisco

Not a sexologist, just a former hustler

I have not in recent memory been so roundly insulted, and by a fellow Irishman yet, as in Mr. Fingal O'Flaherty's partially literary tome *"Straight thinking"* *Mailstrom*, August 6]. Obviously Mr. O'Flaherty is not familiar with my oeuvre as published in the letters column of the B.A.R. or he would be less likely to take me on.

Mr. O'Flaherty seems to be so far locked into the vestibule of myth that dragging him out is going to take more than a crowbar! He claims I know nothing about hustling or hustlers, this despite the fact I worked as a male prostitute in both Boston and San Francisco for over 14 years. I have also patronized prostitutes on Polk Street and in Park Square, Boston. I do not claim to be a "sexologist," but I have read such hefty tomes as Kraft-Ebing's *Psychopathia Sexualis*, Kinsey's *Report on the Sexual Proclivities of the American Male*, and at least two works by Masters and Johnson. That said, let me add that sexuality is not all black and white or gay, straight, bi. What sex really is is a continuum with most people falling somewhere in the middle. You take issue with my statement that it is not within the psychological make up of a straight man to have sex with a gay man for money (or any other reason).

If two men are together having sex, regardless of the arrangements, cash or otherwise, no matter if a video machine is playing shoddy tits and asslesbo love flicks, if two men are having sex and both their dicks are hard they are both committing a homosexual act.

John S. Connelly
San Francisco

Sorry about late stage terminations

To Enrique, Blue Period, and Pansy Division:

I want to extend a belated apology for the scheduling problems you experienced at this year's Pride Celebration. We received an avalanche of applications from bands wanting to perform on the main stage this year. All of those requests deserved some performance time. We allotted approximately 15 minutes per band so that more of our community's talented artists would have exposure to an international audience attending the Pride Celebration. Scheduling more time per band would have meant that fewer talented artists would have been able to perform. Unfortunately, a few artists played well beyond their allotted time. This showed a lack of respect for the stage manager and the bands scheduled to perform after them.

Please accept my apology. We will institute measures to remedy this situation so the potential for recurrence at Pride '99 is minimized.

Ken Bunch
Main Stage Venue Manager, Pride 1998
San Francisco

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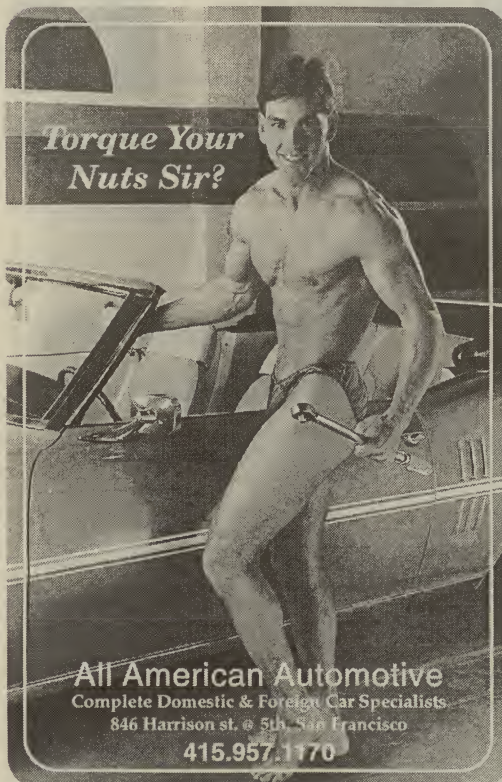
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Fair warning!

An open letter to Will Carter, co-chair of S.F.'s HIV Health Services Planning Council: ["Planning council co-chair apologizes to Latinos for comment," July 30.]

The fact that you are an African-American male makes the racist, greedy, elitist shenanigans of San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) no less acceptable. Your unwillingness to discuss the glaring contradictions with AIDS service organization funding and bloated executive salaries is unacceptable. After the 12th World AIDS Conference in Geneva in July, you and your cohorts can no longer expect to continue in the free-for-all billion dollar giveaway of Ryan White CARE Act funds to the pharmaceutical industry. Accessing immunosuppressive toxic drugs which officials admit are no cure for people who have no place to live and who are suffering from poor nutrition and a myriad other problems, is a sorry excuse for an AIDS policy. Let's call this what it is: a sell-out of the basic needs of the poor for corporate profits.

Any pretension you may claim to harbor for the homeless of the Tenderloin or the Latinos of the Mission is all bluster. Why else would you tell us that the reason for cutbacks in social services is to access more drug treatment? Forget all the reports of massive drug failure, the falsification of scientific evidence concerning HIV, forget all the reports of metabolic deformities, forget the fact the city of S.F. is in the midst of a housing crisis and an estimated 3,000 HIV-positives sleep on the streets on any given night. No! It's just "full steam ahead." The interests of the public be damned. Let's just continue to fill the coffers of the pharmaceutical industry. No doubt stock portfolios will rise in the process. Such shameless greed in the name of a healthcare policy is as unacceptable as your shallow apology.

Anyone can sit around and enumerate the problems. The point, however, is to do something about them. And for an HIV-positive individual to stand up and raise these issues at a public forum in S.F. is to be met by what? "Fuck you!"? "Fuck you!" indeed! I won't even speculate whether you would have spoken to me in such a manner had I been white.

But I must commend you, Will Carter, for a moment of honesty in an otherwise shoddy display of political grandstanding, empty platitudes and self-congratulatory hubris. "When I talk with people, especially people of color, I find it best to speak from the heart and trust people will understand." We understand all right. We understand you have no intention of addressing the issues. Your plantation mentality with regards to dialoguing with "people of color" is both shocking, provincial and out of line. You need to cut the phony new age bullshit and stick to the issues. It may be news to you, but the time when minorities are expected to get on their knees and kow-tow to AIDS industry officials and governmental impostors such as Sandra Thurman and Nancy Pelosi is over! You people need to get a clue. You are public servants and you are accountable to your constituency: the HIV-positive. Mexicans have a saying, "no mi chinges!" Shall I translate? It means, "don't fuck with me!" You have been given fair warning. As co-chair of S.F.'s HIV Health Services Planning Council you can no longer get away with sugar-coated sound bites and spin control during a moment of crisis. You must discuss the issues of bloated salaries, paltry services, racist policy and the changing demographics of "HIV+/PWAs" as well as the controversy surrounding HIV and drug failure, or expect to be challenged!

Finally, with regards to the recent *Vida y Movimiento* fiasco, since 1994 ACT UP/SF has called for the resignation of Pat Christen as executive director of SFAF for her bigotry, greed and callous disregard for the HIV-positive. Time has only proven us right.

Ronnie Burk
San Francisco

Another view

To Will Carter: Bravo.

Rick Salinas
San Francisco

Riderless horse for scapegoats

I suggest that starting with the 1999 Gay Pride Parade when we commemorate the 30th anniversary of Stonewall, that the riderless horse be placed directly behind the lead banner and rainbow colors as a reminder of our fallen soldiers who fought the good fight for gay liberation and for all other progressive causes, and that the riderless horse be in the front section of the parade for all subsequent years. We have lost an entire generation to what the government calls "AIDS" and that loss must be remembered every year by all generations who carry on the struggle. The riderless horse also should serve as a reminder to all anti-gay people, both locally and everywhere else, that they are desecrating the memory of some of the best of us when they scapegoat lesbian and gay people and anyone else.

Lee Heller
San Francisco

Not a lover, just a fighter

Thank you for running the article to alert San Franciscans that Community United Against Violence (CUAV) is a fraud ["Anti-CUAV case goes to court," August 13].

There is one substantial correction that needs to be made, however. When I was interviewed by Dennis Conkin, I referred to Robert Brenner as my "partner," not my "lover." Since July 1996 my "lover" has been Nicté for the period in question.

All my life I have resisted the American obsession with Social Darwinism as offensive to the dignity of human beings. CUAV's despicable actions against me, however, now place me in the uncomfortable position of having to label myself for the first time in my life: I am Hispanic.

Hispanics in the state of California are under legislative assault in terms of education, immigration, and language rights. I am morally indignant that we are now under judicial assault by gays as well. I know of no Hispanic or Latino organization anywhere in this country advocating any kind of violence against the gay, lesbian, and transgender community. But through CUAV — as Brian Wilmes's murder; CUAV counsel McCutchen, Doyle's threats against Fundación Mesoamerica; and the slander and defamation of CUAV Advocate Anna Davies all demonstrate — judicial assault against the Hispanic community is an activity at which that organization does itself.

This saddens — but also galvanizes. As a Hispanic man I will fight to defend the rights of Hispanics.

Louis E. V. Nevaer
San Francisco

[Editor's note: The article did not say that CUAV was "a fraud." We apologize that it did use the word "lover" instead of partner.]

Protection from protectors

In your article "Anti-CUAV case goes to court," your reporter writes of "other alleged victims of Brenner." I am one of those victims.

This took place at Cafe San Marcos on Market Street in November 1996. When I contacted CUAV about my concern, I received a snotty letter from Greg Merrill telling me to get lost since CUAV was the advocate for Brenner! How outrageous that CUAV is advocating for a dangerous man who has assaulted or threatened several people in this community apart from me.

Domestic violence, like any kind of violence, is a serious issue and CUAV discredits legitimate efforts to protect true victims of violence. Here I am, having been assaulted by this man and I am told that he is the "victim."

Imagine for a moment how you would feel if you were in a courtroom and some slanderer from CUAV told a judge that you assaulted someone when you did no such thing. Imagine how the judge would react to this false testimony! Bearing false witness is against one of the Ten Commandments, so offensive it is to the very idea of "justice!"

This is why I head "True Victims of Domestic Violence Fund," to protect victims of violence who have been further victimized by those dangerous losers at CUAV. No one can feel safe in this community with CUAV operating as it does.

I urge members of our community to demand the city of San Francisco and the District Attorney's office cease giving CUAV hundreds of thousands of dollars until it is a responsive and responsible organization.

James Balducci
San Francisco

Baa? Bah!

It is unfortunate that most Americans believe we still live in a two party system, Democrats and Republicans. At best we live in a one party system, moderate (formerly Democrats) and conservative Republicans, which is very dangerous indeed. I am reminded of Machiavelli's *The Prince* where the Prince gives the impression that he is benevolent and has the populace's interests at heart, but deep down this impression is a clever mask to cover over his secret agenda, his own self-interests.

One is also reminded of theocracy (Christendom or Christian-dumb) where rewards of salvation, money, and forgiveness of atrocities are guaranteed if one does exactly, without question, what the hierarchy demands. To question the hierarchy is to place one's soul in peril of eternal damnation. And it surprises me that gay and straight Christians are gullible enough to believe all what the secular and religious hierarchy teach; that the political and religious parties of "American Democracy" really have their best interests at heart. It amazes me that intelligent people can still be sheep.

I am reminded of what the great Judaic teacher Hillel taught, and I paraphrase, "If I do not stand up for myself, who will?"

D. Alexander Matley
San Francisco

Prepare to be propositioned

by Wayne Friday

In addition to the Gray Davis-Dan Lungren gubernatorial contest, the Barbara Boxer-Matt Fong battle for a U.S. Senate seat, a long list of statewide constitutional contests, congressional races, state legislative contests, county and local races, there are no less than 10 statewide ballot measures to be decided on the November 3 ballot. The proposition numbers revert to the number 1 this year, due to legislation requiring a 10-year cycle for numbering.

These are the 10 propositions that will appear on the ballot in November:

Prop. 1 (Property Taxation)

— Would direct the Legislature to provide that the base-year value of a qualified contaminated property be transferred to a replacement property of equal or lesser value that is located within the same, or in some circumstance a different, county and is acquired or constructed within a specified time period as a replacement for the contaminated property.

Prop. 2 (Transportation Funding) — Would authorize the loan of specified revenues generated from motor vehicle use fees and taxes to the General Fund only if a condition is imposed requiring that repayment of any loan be made in full to the fund from which it was borrowed, under very specific guidelines.

Prop. 3 (Presidential Primary Elections) — Would enact the Save the Presidential Primary Act and amend provisions of the Open Primary Act to revise balloting for direct presidential primary elections; it would call for a special statewide election be consolidated with the November 3 general election to submit before the amended provisions of the Open Primary Act.

Prop. 4 (Trapping Practices) — Would prohibit trapping mammals classified as fur-bearing or non-game with body-gripping traps for recreation or commerce in fur; it would provide for misdemeanor penalties.

Prop. 5 (Tribal-State Gaming Compacts) — Would permit gambling devices and lotteries at tribal casinos and amend California law to allow slot machines and banked card games at tribal casinos; it would provide a mandatory compact between the state and Indian tribes.

Prop. 6 (Ban on Slaughter of Horses and Sale of Horsemeat for Human Consumption) — Would prohibit any person from possessing, transferring, receiving or holding horse, pony, burro or mule with intent to kill or have it killed for human consumption; it would make the sale of horsemeat for human consumption a misdemeanor with subsequent violations punishable as felonies.

Prop. 7 (Air Quality Improvements; Tax Credits) — Would authorize the State Air Resources Board and delegated air pollution districts to award \$218 million in state tax credits annually until the year 2011, to encourage air-emissions reduction through acquisition, conversion, retro-

fitting and research and development of vehicles and equipment.

Prop. 8 (Public Schools; Permanent Class Size Reduction; Parent-Teacher Council) — Would create a fund to reduce class size from kindergarten through third grade. Eligibility for the funds would require the establishment of a site governing council of parents and teachers for each school; teachers would be required to pass examination to receive credentials and assignments to teach particular subjects.

Prop. 9 (Electric Utilities, Assessments, Bonds) — Would prohibit assessing a utility tax, bond payments or surcharges to pay for the costs of nuclear

power plants and related assets; it could provide up to 20 percent electricity rate reduction for residential and small commercial customers of investor by January 1, 1999.

Prop. 10 (Early Childhood Development Programs; Additional Tobacco Surtax)

— Would create a state commission to provide information and materials for establishing comprehensive early childhood development and smoking prevention programs; funding for the programs would be raised by an additional 50 cents per pack tax on cigarette distributors and an equivalent increase in state tax on tobacco products.

So, got all that? Ten of them, in addition to all the rest you will find on the November 3 ballot; some of the above propositions you will hear little or nothing about. Others, such as Prop. 5 (Tribal-State Gaming) will be high profile and millions of dollars will be spent on both sides of this controversial issue.

Politics and people

Personal scandals aside, President Bill Clinton raked in an impressive \$3 million for Davis's gubernatorial campaign last week, and he promised to make at least one more such fundraising trip here for Davis before the election.

Those following the statewide campaigns say that Davis, Lungren, and their managers are determined to keep the campaign as civil as possible, but look for the battle in the senate race between incumbent Boxer and challenger Fong to become bitter and personal. The first of their five television debates will originate from Los Angeles on August 26; the second will be on an as yet unannounced date in San Francisco.

At City Hall they are saying that the race for president of the Board of Supes is still between Tom Ammann and Mabel Teng, with two other incumbents, Gavin Newsom and Mark Leno, expected to keep their jobs, but Amos Brown is thought to be in real trouble; challengers Victor Marquez or Donna Casey could replace him if he doesn't get his election show on the road soon.

A gay activist called me recently to advise me that he was a candidate for supe in November and said one of the reasons he was running was because he feels the current board is too subservient to Mayor Willie Brown, adding that he thinks of the mayor as being "a cross between the

late Chicago Mayor Richard Daley and D.C. Mayor Marion Barry." Last Monday, this same guy quickly raised his hand and voted with the other Toklas Demo members to pass an early endorsement for Brown; another "sincerity" candidate runs for office, or maybe he just thinks Daley and Barry are good political role models.

Proving once again that politicians should avoid sports events, Brown was soundly booed August 9 at the Giants' "Until There's A Cure Day" at 3Com Park — while the Silicon Valley Gay Men's Chorus received a good ovation.

The Washington-based Human Rights Campaign, the gay and lesbian political organization, has written a 32-page manual to help congressional candidates win the support of homosexual voters this November. Surprisingly, the forward was written by two political veterans not usually associated with gay causes: Sheila Burke, Bob Dole's longtime chief of staff in the U.S. Senate, and George Stephanopoulos, Clinton's former close White House advisor.

Elsewhere in Washington, even some "moderate" House and U.S. Senate members are said to be very unhappy that, with the apparent approval of Republican congressional leaders, gay rights has definitely replaced abortion as the wedge issue for the GOP in this year's elections.



Anita Bryant

She's baaacccccckkk! (Well, sort of...) Two decades after Anita Bryant's singing career suffered a meltdown after clashing with gay rights activists over her attempts to repeal a gay rights ordinance in Dade County, Florida in 1977, she is reportedly making somewhat of a comeback. The 59-year-old former beauty queen, who lost her big-bucks promotional contract to sing the silly "Come to the Florida Sunshine Tree" in TV ads for that state's orange growers, and was then dumped by her husband of 20 years, is now busily recording Gospel songs and looking for club dates; her biggest gig to date was singing the national anthem at a bass fishing tournament in Greenville, North Carolina. Ha! — you go, girl!

Quote of The Week (from Dale Carpenter, the Texas director of the gay Log Cabin Republicans, after announcing their organization's national convention would be held in Dallas): "Being a gay Republican in Texas is a little like being a black Democrat in Mississippi in the 50s — you're involved in a party that doesn't want you, where you're excluded, discriminated against, and segregated."

And in closing, let me wish a belated Happy Birthday to one of San Francisco's and the gay/lesbian community's finest: Assemblywoman Carole Migden, as she celebrates the big 5-0. ▼

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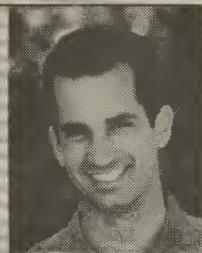
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The bitches who lunch

by Beth Elliott

You're going to swear I need a vacation after this next item ... which, yes, is more Volcano Girl stuff. Science has published reports of experiments and observations suggesting that undersea volcanoes were responsible for life on Earth! In one, scientists at Tokyo University found amino acids forming complex peptide chains in their undersea geothermal vent model, and those would be the building blocks of life! Itself! While the theory doesn't yet have universal acceptance, publication of such new data was a proud day for Volcano Girls everywhere.

And if that's not enough, next week's column is full of what Eric Cartman of *South Park* would call "hippie crap." Not only have I had way too much hippie-type fun this summer, it's come with opportunities for "viewing with perspective" that have really allowed me to savor the various pleasures ... from "miracle" tickets to the Furthur Festival (headlined by The Other Ones, i.e., the post-Jerry Garcia Grateful Dead) to skinny dipping in West Marin with the witchy folks of Compost Coven.

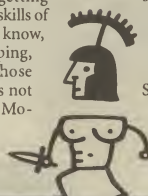
You'd be right: I do need a vacation. And as you read this, I am indeed on vacation, getting my first look at the Catskills of upstate New York. You know, Mt. Purring, Mt. Napping, Mt. Pouncing ... all those Cat Skills. Oh, and let's not forget the one whose Mohawk name translates to "Mount Furry Critter That Walks on Bladder First Thing in Morning." It's going to be strange for me ... mountains that are old, haven't changed (but for wearing down) in like forever, and don't even shake! But I think I will survive the disorientation thanks to hiking and visiting with my friend Denise, the fabulous network programmer and gung-ho capitalist entrepreneur babe. Denise says Zen centers are popping up like crazy in the Catskills because Buddhists are, like, totally tripping out on the half-billion-year-old mountain vibes. Yo Beth sez, I'm gonna check it out.

Along with that, a visit to my friend and old band mate Jenny in Manhattan, and yet another attempt with my Seattle Web guru friend Sandi to see if we can visit British Columbia in August without having our fun spoiled by rain. On the way home: a major Wagner fix in the form of Seattle Opera's killer new production of *Tristan und Isolde*. We'll see if the time off tones down the madness.

Meanwhile, back in the states (Bomp, shoo-oo wop! Bomp, shoo-oo wop!), I had lunch with a friend briefly back for a visit from El Salvador, over which we celebrated our total selfishness. Now, some of you might not understand how I could confess the evil sin of selfishness for the two of us: Marybeth's a Maryknoll missionary who's eating rice and beans so she can teach and coach soccer and softball down there, and I gave her a big burlap bag of softballs and a set of bases, free, to take back with her ... after having given blood earlier in the day. How can all this wonderful, altruistic, giving behavior possibly be selfish? Easy: we did these things for our enjoyment and to promote values in which we believe, with-



out any sense of obligation to others to do so. Marybeth trained in Bolivia, where she got to see the Nazca Plains and Lake Titicaca and the Andes. Despite repeated pleas to coach boys' softball and soccer teams, she's giving her time and sports equipment to girls, even though people can't understand why she'd arrange for



Sapphistication

every girl to have a soccer ball when teams of boys could be taken off the streets with a ball per team. She often has to cajole parents to let girls skip baby-sitting and cooking and laundering, and must make her coaching more basic because the girls haven't even had much chance to run around freely. She's doing what she loves — devoting her attention to girls — instead of sacrificing her desires to "the greatest good for the greatest number."

Myself, I think Marybeth is one of the most positive people on this planet, a ray of sunshine personified. It gave me great joy to see her face light up at the sight of three to four dozen softballs, and I know she'll have wonderful stories for me in her e-mails about the girls playing ball. I, too, want to live in a world in which girls are encouraged to discover the joys of athleticism, the joys of doing cool and skillful and exhilarating things with their bodies. My gift of gear was an investment in that

kind of world, and I'm reaping mass quantities of warm fuzzies from that investment. Such a deal!

Giving blood, too, is an investment in the kind of world in which I want to live. I'm really, really glad there were 17 pints of A-positive available to me over those 10 days in May 1975 during which my survival was in quite a bit of doubt. With the occasional gift of a pint of my own A-positive, I maintain a world in which perishing from loss of blood is not inevitable in the case of accident or major surgery — I choose to help pay for such a world instead of taxing others. Because enough people act in their own self-interest in that very way, we have a blood supply for the wounded and injured, which may include ourselves at some point.

Selfishness gets a bum rap: while altruists think in terms of what the world purportedly owes them, and live in a state of envy of those who have more, selfish people realize their self-interest is usually best met by engaging in win-win exchanges with others ... others whose agenda of self-interest is straightforward and upfront. Giving can be fun when it's obligation-free; generosity is pleasurable when no guilt trip's attached. It's easy to be nice to people when you think of them as potential trade or barter partners — what kinds of associations do you have with the phrase "another satisfied customer"? ▼

George outs Eleanor

United Press International

George magazine has published what it says are love letters between former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt and her lesbian lover, an *Associated Press* reporter.

George, a magazine run by another famous Democrat, John F. Kennedy Jr., excerpts letters that Roosevelt exchanged with Lorena Hickok, the journalist-turned-civil servant she called the "light of my life." The pair reportedly met in 1928 but only grew closer four years later, after Franklin Roosevelt had been elected president.

The letters are held by the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, which allows visiting scholars to examine them.

On a trip to Minnesota, Hickok wrote to the first lady: "Most clearly,

I remember your eyes, with a kind of teasing smile in them, and the feeling of that soft spot just northeast of the corner of your mouth against my lips. ... Good night, dear one. I want to put my arms around you and kiss you at the corner of your mouth. And in a little more than a week now — I shall!"

In another letter from the then-first lady to the ex-news-woman, Roosevelt penned, "I'd like to be traveling with you. I love you beyond words. ... I wish you were here."

In another piece of correspondence to Hickok, she mentioned swirling rumors: "Dear One, and so you think they gossip about us. Well they must at least think we stand separation rather well! I am always so much more optimistic than you are. I suppose because I care so little what 'they' say." ▼

MEDIA ALERT

Conversation on 'conversion' concerns

by Don Romesburg,
GLAAD/SF media resource
center manager

In September's *Marie Claire* magazine, reporter Thomas Mournian carefully examines the brisk trade in institutionalizing girls whose parents suspect are lesbians. The writer examines the impact of institutionalization on young lesbians such as Lyn Duff, forcibly committed to a private Utah hospital when her mother learned she is a lesbian. Duff, diagnosed as having gender identity disorder (GID) and depression, "claims her 'treatment' included heavy sedation, isolation, hypnosis and behavior modification." Her lesbianism was "equated ... with perpetration of sexual abuse, which is why gay teens were treated like sex offenders." She eventually escaped and got a court to revoke her mother's parental rights. Duff — who came to national attention in 1996 when she was profiled in an ABC 20/20 segment nominated for a 1997 GLAAD Media Award [see GLAADAlert October 4, 1996] — "is actually one of the lucky ones," the article states. "She has made a new life for herself, including good friends, a college education and a job."

Mournian is thorough and sensitive in his research. He provides compelling coverage in a general-audience women's magazine of an underreported, but reportedly damaging, practice that has drawn professional concern from both the American Psychological Association and American Psychiatric Association, and continues to generate intense concern in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender communities. Mournian interviews representatives from the Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center and the National Center for Lesbian Rights (NCLR), and even provides NCLR's toll-free number, noting that it "offers help to institutionalized teens."

Please thank *Marie Claire* magazine for this compelling look at an ongoing danger facing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender youth.

Contact Deborah Frank, Managing Editor, *Marie Claire*, 250 West 55th St., 5th Floor, New York, NY 10019-5201, fax: 212-649-5050, e-mail via WWW: <http://homearts.com/mail/mc-mail.htm>

Sins of omission

Unfortunately, the *Washington Post Magazine* on August 2 wasn't as lucid about conversion therapy. The cover of the magazine showed a hand raised in a Boy Scout salute, with the headline, "And Morally Straight' ... Gay Men v. the Boy Scouts."

The article told of two men in Washington, D.C., who took the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) before the city's human relations commission after the BSA revoked their memberships because they are gay. District of Columbia law forbids discrimination based on sexual orientation, thereby giving grounds to their case. The article explained the men's distress over the BSA's reaction to the dis-

closures of their sexual orientation. Among those quoted by reporter Tracy Thompson was local Scout leader Roger Brown. In the piece, Brown argued, uncontested, that the two men "made a choice in their lifestyle, and all these other people with kids in Boy Scouts have chosen a lifestyle, too. And those two are not compatible."

The article also reported that the BSA brought in child psychologist George A. Rekers, who now "spends much of his time treating youngsters with 'gender identity disorder.'" (GID) as a witness at the human relations commission hearing. The reporter noted that the American Psychological Association (APA) considers this controversial therapy's goal to be "inappropriate, which is why Rekers resigned from the APA several years ago."

Sexual orientation is "a matter of choice," Rekers was quoted as testifying. No contradictory testimony or opinion was quoted.

GID diagnosis and therapy for children has been labeled specious and possibly damaging by individuals and groups within both the American Psychological Association and American Psychiatric Association. Its use to force the treatment and institutionalization of children and adolescents who don't conform to "gender norms" in clothing, play, and behavior has drawn sharp criticism throughout the scientific, medical, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) communities. The cover story's failure to acknowledge this years-long controversy makes Rekers's testimony seem far more accepted and uncontroversial than, in reality, it is. The writer also allows a Scout leader to refer to being gay as "a lifestyle" and a "choice," without giving equal weight to the widely held contention that sexual orientation is innate.

Please write the *Washington Post Magazine* and let them know that you appreciate their inclusion of an important issue, but express your deep concern with the blatant omissions in this piece and tell the editors of the dangers of "conversion therapy" and the questionable validity of GID.

Contact Tom Frail, Managing Editor, *Washington Post Magazine*, 1150 15th St. NW, Washington, DC 20071-0002, fax: 202.334.5693, e-mail: 20071@washpost.com

Reuters report on youth skews reality

In a July 30 story, *Reuters* reported that a gay male youth's number of sexual partners "may be linked to a risk for violence, suicide, and drug abuse," citing findings by medical researchers in North Carolina. The researchers, whose report was in July's *The Journal of Pediatrics*, theorize that students may be more likely to identify sexually active gay teens as homosexual, "thus upping their risk for victimization." Correlations were found between the number of male sexual partners and the frequency of having been threatened or injured with a weapon at school, the number of days the student did not attend school because they felt unsafe,

and the number of times they had been injured in a fight that required medical treatment."

This report was a classic example of "blaming the victim." It began with the sensational implication that being a sexually active gay youth means elevated risks for violence, suicide, and drug abuse, and not until deep into the story did *Reuters* note that most violence encountered by the youth is likely anti-gay violence. And it is only in the last paragraph that *Reuters* referred to countering researchers, saying, "The Vermont authors believe their findings highlight the need for improved student counseling services and youth-oriented programs which 'promote mutual respect for gay and straight lifestyles.'"

Write *Reuters* and tell the wire service that the skewed emphasis in this story reinforce images that severely affect LGBT youth. Encourage them to be more responsible in the future.

Contact Bernd DeBusmann, News Editor, *Reuters's America*, Inc., 1333 H St. NW #410, Washington, DC 20005-4707, fax: 202.898.8383, e-mail: editor.reuters@reuters.com

Sensitive look at female-to-male transgender experience

An article by *Miami Herald* reporter Lori Teresa Yearwood for *Knight-Ridder*, ran in the July 28 *Columbus, Georgia Ledger-Enquirer*. It opened by telling how Miami university student Nick Sarchet, 28, was followed home and beaten by two men. As they beat and verbally abused Sarchet, he realized he "didn't dare tell them what he really was. Because Nick Sarchet, who until last month went by the name of Kimberly Lin Smith, is a woman. A woman in the process of becoming a man. It has taken years for him to get to this place, a place of relative comfort and self-acceptance."

The article detailed Sarchet's long journey toward assuming a male identity. He has yet to tell his parents, because he is afraid they will try to take from him his four-year-old daughter, born when he still identified as a woman. Still, he knows he's doing what's right for him — and that he wants to discuss the attack publicly: "I'm tired of other people thinking people like me don't exist, that we're just weird, or strange, or abnormal. Someone has to make people like me real."

With acceptance and understanding, Yearwood told Sarchet's story in a way that gave readers a thoughtful look at life from a transgender person's perspective. The article also made the point that transgender persons can be loving parents and lead normal lives.

Please thank Yearwood for this intelligent handling of a little-covered subject. Also, please thank the *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer* for sharing this memorable story with its readers.

Contact Lori Teresa Yearwood, Reporter, *Miami Herald*, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, FL 33132, fax: 305.376.2202; and Susan Catron, Managing Editor, *Columbus Ledger-Enquirer*, 17 West 12th St., Columbus, GA 31901-5254, fax: 706.576.6290, leletter@leo.infi.net

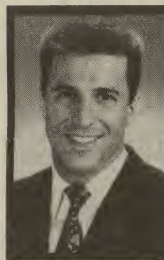
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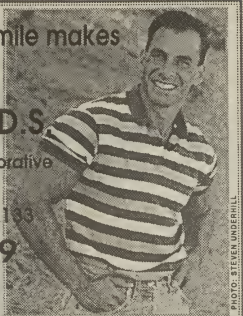


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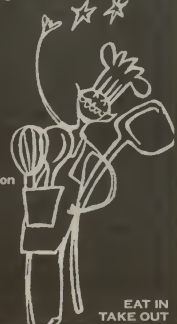
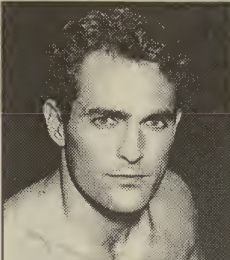
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35 years ago this month:

Gay man at the head of the March on Washington

by David Bianco

Next week in gay history: The historic March on Washington for black civil rights, organized by Bayard Rustin, takes place August 28, 1963

Alveda King, niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., has expended a lot of energy publicly condemning gay people and denouncing the gay rights movement. What she seems to have forgotten is that the man who taught her famous uncle about nonviolent protest, and was a major architect of the black civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, was an openly gay man named Bayard Rustin.

Rustin was born in 1912 in eastern Pennsylvania and raised by his black Quaker grandparents. Toward the end of his life, he noted that his activism was rooted more in Quaker pacifism than in his being black. After attending two colleges and graduating from neither, Rustin moved to New York City in the mid-1930s and enjoyed a brief first career as a singer and actor, playing opposite Paul Robeson in the Broadway musical, *John Henry*.

But activism, not acting, was to become Rustin's life work. In 1936, he joined the Young Communist League, but became disenchanted with the party when it abandoned its commitment to the desegregation of the armed forces at the start of World War II. Rustin quickly moved on to work with the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), an international Christian pacifist organization. During his early years with FOR, Rustin became a disciple of Gandhian nonviolence. In 1944, he put Gandhi's principles into action when he defied his draft summons and had to spend 28 months in a federal prison. After his release, Rustin played an important role on the Committee Against Jim Crow in Military Service and Training, which was instrumental in the desegregation of the armed forces in 1948.

Rustin became one of FOR's top figures and was rumored to be heir apparent to its leader. But his homosexuality and frequent casual sex hurt his career. In 1953, while on an FOR speaking tour, he was arrested in Pasadena on a

morals charge when he was caught in a parked car having sex with two men. Rustin maintained that the men entrapped him, but he pled guilty anyway and spent 60 days in jail. Although Rustin had never been closeted, being arrested made him a liability to FOR, and he was asked to resign.

Rustin continued to work in the peace movement, taking a staff position with the War Resisters' League. But in 1956, Lillian Smith, a Southern white lesbian and author of the controversial novel about miscegenation, *Strange Fruit*, hooked Rustin up with the 27-year-old Martin Luther King, Jr., who was trying to organize a bus boycott in Montgomery, Alabama. King had academic knowledge of Gandhi's philosophy, but Rustin actually taught him how to employ the techniques of nonviolence. As King's adviser, Rustin and several others conceived the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), the grassroots civil rights organization that propelled King into the national spotlight.

To King's credit, he hired Rustin knowing about his sexual orientation and criminal record. King himself "was under such extraordinary pressure about his own sex life," Rustin later explained. "J. Edgar Hoover was spreading stories, and there were very real efforts to entrap him" and thereby discredit the civil rights movement.

Some black activists close to King were not comfortable with Rustin, whose promiscuity, they believed, might compromise the entire movement. At one point and for unknown reasons, Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. threatened to go public with the false accusation that King and Rustin were lovers. In 1960, in the interest of preserving the movement, Rustin quietly resigned as King's assistant.

In 1962, however, Rustin was back in the thick of things, at the request of veteran black organizer A. Philip Randolph. Randolph's 1941 threat to bring 100,000 black protesters to Washington had convinced Roosevelt to block discrimination in defense contracting, and he was once again planning a march to

bring about government action. Recognizing Rustin's extraordinary organizing skills, Randolph asked him to draw up the blueprint for a massive civil rights march on Washington, to be held on the 100th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. Although Rustin was the march's architect, black leaders were hesitant to name him as director, since his ties to communism, his conscientious objection, and his morals charge arrest made him vulnerable to attack from civil rights opponents. (Strom Thurmond did eventually attack Rustin on all of these points.)

Randolph became the official march director instead, but he named Rustin as his assistant and turned the responsibilities of organizing over to him. The March on Washington, which took place on August 28, 1963 and culminated in King's "I Have a Dream" speech, was a pinnacle of the movement for black civil rights.

Although the march was probably Rustin's finest hour, he spent his entire lifetime as an activist, being arrested over 20 times for acts of civil disobedience. In 1964, he organized a public school boycott in New York City, in which 400,000 students, teachers, and school employees stayed home to protest the slow pace of integration. Well into his seventies, Rustin was still active in various causes, including the fight against AIDS. "He had work to do until the very end," one of his associates said after Rustin died in August, 1987, of heart failure. "His utter devotion to causes was marked by the use of his last ounce of talent, the driving urge to talk, to plan, to organize." ▼

For further reading:

Troubles I've Seen,
 by Bayard Rustin;
Other Countries: A First Volume,
 by Jervis Anderson

David Bianco, M.A. is the author of *Modern Jewish History for Everyone*. He can be reached care of this publication or at AriBianco@aol.com. For more Past Out, visit www.gay.net.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Luther Brock's odyssey:

Slam to HIV community service

by Marv. Shaw

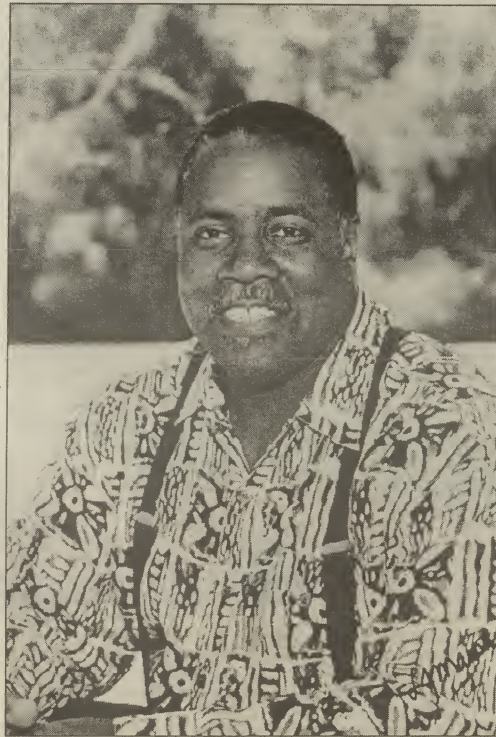
After learning self-improvement techniques in prison that helped turn his own life around, AIDS Community Research Consortium (ACRC) Coordinator of Community Education and Outreach Services Luther Brock told the *Bay Area Reporter* he has a self-renewing career goal in his current role to extend those techniques and desires to others.

"At one point in prison, seven of us got together to find ways to change ourselves and improve our lives," Brock said. "There was mutual agreement that we had to get clean and sober." Brock himself remembers that on one day, he resolved to stop drinking, smoking, and using drugs. A 90-day period of living up to that vow put him on his way to helping others.

Since that time has re-created himself thoroughly and is succeeding in applying the same principles to his current work, which he describes as "Creating a new face for clinical research in HIV for the minority community, one that will counter the negative effects that grew out of the Tuskegee syphilis research created." (He refers to the notorious decades-long study in Alabama, in which the government intentionally withheld life-saving drugs from black men who were infected with syphilis, to track the course of their infections.)

Brock first created Free at Last, a drug and alcohol recovery center in East Palo Alto. Brock worked for five years with drug abusers and convicts, many of the 2,000 people he treated were HIV-positive. In his work with Free at Last, the Stanford outreach efforts, and now ACRC, Brock sees the most rewarding goals realized by an "Each one teach one" action, as recovering people pass along their determination and actions to others. "Seeing people much improved one year after they started brings me joy," he said.

Convinced that clinical research in HIV was the only potentially effective way for the disease to be conquered, he was the outreach coordinator for the Stanford University AIDS Clinical Trial Group. He joined ACRC in May, where "I translate into ebon-



Luther Brock

ics the nature of the ACRC trials. "Also," Brock explained, "I delicately, diplomatically make clear to the African-American community the nature of the drug trials and gradually replace the prison-induced fear they have with confidence."

Brock candidly admitted that he also has a personal stake in clinical trials. Although he remains negative for HIV, he does have hepatitis C, and has participated in a trial involving interferon. Because HIV and hepatitis C often occur in the same people, the trial was considered a natural for ACRC. He indicated that though the experience did produce unwanted side effects, he feels he understands the trial experience even better now.

His ties with the Bay Area gay community are long-standing and strong. Although heterosexual, he has had many gay friends,

especially in the Castro and the Haight-Ashbury, for many years. One close ally for community action is Mike Donnelly of ACT UP/Golden Gate, a group that Brock admires, along with Project Inform.

Asked about influences of religious homophobes in his work, Brock first pointed out that early in his life, especially when he was a Roman Catholic altar boy, he felt strong influences pulling him away from gay-oriented matters. But as he has worked more with gay and straight groups dedicated to eradicating HIV, he has found that anti-gay feelings have given way to mutual needs.

Those needs reflect the greater value of mutual action, Brock related, and now he sees people in churches and other groups that were implacably anti-gay calling up to ask, "What can I do?"

People can change. Luther Brock knows it. ▽

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Eleven fire

◀ page 1

reported. It took 94 firefighters about 90 minutes to battle the blaze, using 16 pieces of equipment, Campbell said.

The fire also caused an estimated \$55,000 in damage to the Tire Broker, a business next door to the restaurant.

Reached Monday, August 17, Petrillo said he is "still in shock" over the loss of the popular restaurant, which he's owned for nearly three years. While the front of the building is heavily charred, Petrillo said the back, where the fire started, is ruined. A banquet room and upstairs eating area "are gone."

Campbell said damage estimates for Eleven were \$800,000 for property and \$800,000 for contents; damage estimates for the Tire Broker were \$50,000 for property and \$5,000 for contents.

"The damage, the way I look at

it, is beyond repair," Petrillo told the B.A.R. "It's a wood structure, and started in the rear. The front looks to be in the best shape. The back roof is day-lighted, the balcony is gone, and the bar is all charred."

Petrillo said he was heartened that no one was injured, and glad the restaurant was covered by insurance. He said he's not decided whether he'll rebuild the restaurant. "Never having gone through this, to see your business gone after you've worked so hard in the community to build your name, to walk in there, it's crushing."

Eleven has been a restaurant for a number of years, Petrillo said; it was originally called Taxi, and was later called *Undici*, Italian for 11.

Petrillo is also a partner in the Tin-Pan Restaurant on Market Street in the Castro; he was named to the Police Commission by Mayor Willie Brown in April 1997. ▽

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Oakland pot center staff named city officers

Lawyers say action gives immunity to co-op

by Cynthia Laird

Seeking unprecedented legal protection for distributors of medical marijuana, officials with the city of Oakland on Thursday, August 13 designated agents at the Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative as officers of the city. While much of the debate surrounding pot as medicine has been centered around the high profile San Francisco Cannabis Healing Center (CHC), officials across the bay quietly worked out the legal steps necessary to protect workers at the Oakland club, attorneys for the cooperative said at a news conference last week.

Jeff Jones, executive director of the Oakland center, praised the leadership of city officials and several attorneys representing the club in federal court. The attorneys filed a motion to dismiss charges against Jones and others Friday, August 14. Oakland is now the first city in the nation with an official program that distributes medical marijuana. The cooperative serves 1,950 patients.

Jones was deputized by Oakland City Councilmember Nate Miley, a staunch supporter of medical marijuana as well as needle exchange.

As city officers, the cannabis cooperative's staff and agents are now immune from federal criminal and civil liability under section 885(d) of the Federal Controlled Substances Act. That sec-

tion provides that any officer of a city who is enforcing an ordinance relating to controlled substances will have immunity from liability, the attorneys said.

"This designation will permit the Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative staff to distribute medical cannabis within federal law," said Professor Gerald Uelman, of the University of Santa Clara School of Law. "That means that the federal government has no case. The lawsuit against the cooperative should be dropped today." Uelman was part of O.J. Simpson's "dream team" defense in his criminal trial. Also on hand were attorneys James Brosnahan, of Morrison and Foerster, and Robert Raich.

California voters overwhelmingly passed Proposition 215, the Compassionate Use Act, in November 1996. Since then, state and federal law enforcement agencies have sought to shut down medical marijuana clubs throughout the state and have succeeded with some of them, such as Peron's in San Francisco. Oakland, however, stuck with trying to work out some legal mechanism and, attorneys believe, the city has made its case.

On a limb

"The Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative runs a clean, legitimate business, contributes to Oakland's downtown revitalization, and prevents seriously ill people from turning to the streets to buy their medicine," said Miley,

who serves as chair of the council's Public Safety Committee, where the details of last week's action were hammered out.

At last week's news conference, Miley reiterated the club runs a tight ship, and said the city wanted to help. "The City Council felt we needed to be out on the frontier," said Miley. "We're pleased to go out on a limb to help and we would do this again."

Miley did not rule out the possibility that Oakland may have city workers distributing medical marijuana, and said his committee will be looking at that possibility as a permanent solution.

"This day is historic," Jones said.

He noted that becoming a member of the Oakland club involves many steps, and members' identifications are constantly checked. "We were careful before, but now our procedures are very strict. Patients say the cooperative is more like a pharmacy than a cannabis club."

In addition to designating the entire premises a smoke-free zone, Jones has installed a new video surveillance system and employed a private security firm to check members' identification. Before they enter the back-room dispensary, where a wide range of medical cannabis products are kept under lock and key, members must show their cards and valid



Jonesing for pot: Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative Executive Director Jeff Jones (left) at news conference with Oakland City Councilmember Nate Miley and attorney Robert Raich.

California photo identification. "Having independent guards on duty sends a firm message to our members," Jones said. "No ID, no medicine."

Becoming a member is no easy ride either. Each applicant must provide a physician's letter of recommendation or approval. These letters, along with the applicant's medical history, are reviewed and verified by a registered nurse on staff at the center.

Oakland ahead of SF

The San Francisco CHC, by comparison, had somewhat looser standards, at least when the club was initially raided by state narcotics agents in August 1996. Although city officials have met to discuss ways to distribute medical marijuana in San Francisco, Dick Pabich, the mayor's HIV/AIDS policy advisor, told the *Bay Area Reporter*, that although the city has discussed doing something similar to Oakland, it is likely to wait until after the November election before taking any action. State Attorney General Dan Lungren, the Republican gubernatorial

candidate, would like nothing better than to make a campaign issue out of San Francisco implementing some type of medical marijuana program, Pabich said.

"That's one of the options the city attorney and district attorney are looking at," Pabich said. "Frankly, Oakland has moved ahead faster than we have."

Pabich also said that some other, smaller clubs continue to operate in the city, as opposed to Oakland, which has the cooperative.

Since the federal government filed suit against six California cannabis dispensaries last year, three of the providers named in the suit have closed. The others, in Oakland, Fairfax, and Ukiah, continue to operate. Jones, 24, co-founded the Oakland cooperative in 1996 after watching his father painfully battle cancer, which claimed his life.

Jones said that tight procedures are an integral part of his job. "We have to be sure our methods stand up to scrutiny," he said. "Providing safe access to medical cannabis is important work, and a community asset." ▼

Feds raid Dennis Peron's pot farm again

by Cynthia Laird

Medical marijuana advocate Dennis Peron's infamous pot farm in Northern California was raided a second time by federal authorities early Friday, August 14. An estimated 151 plants were uprooted by agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) before a weekend open house started.

Peron said the celebrants went ahead with the party anyway and replanted 50 plants. "We had over 200 people up here," Peron said Monday, August 17. No arrests were made by authorities during the 7:30 a.m. raid; Peron and others were detained for about two hours.

"It was so surreal," a resigned Peron told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "All the plants that were uprooted were getting ready to bud."

Peron said 19 DEA agents and one local Lake County sheriff's deputy took part in the confiscation effort. Peron's remote 20-acre farm was first raided in May; the San Francisco Cannabis Healing Center (CHC) was closed by San Francisco Sheriff Michael Hennessey May 25 on orders from Superior Court Judge William Cahill.

Last week in Oakland, officials designated members of that city's marijuana cooperative as officers of the city, a move that was hailed by Peron, who authored and campaigned hard for passage of state



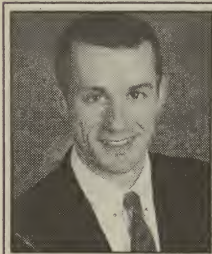
Putting down roots: Dennis Peron replants cannabis on August 15, one day after agents uprooted the previous crop.

Proposition 215 in November 1996. "Wasn't that great," Peron said of the developments in Oakland. (See story above.)

Of last week's visit by authorities, Peron said he had an inkling something like that would happen, but maintained he's acting within the law. "We changed state

law. What we're doing is legal, growing pot for medicinal purposes," said Peron.

Peron had publicized the open house on his website, which federal authorities monitor daily. News releases announcing the open house were also widely distributed. ▼



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■ **CRIVAN in triple therapy continues to hold serum viral load down below the limit of detection at the one year mark.**

- In a separate, ongoing landmark study, over 90% of the 31 patients receiving CRIVAN, AZT, and 3TC reduced their HIV serum viral load below the limit of detection after 24 weeks (as measured by available tests; the virus may still be present in other organ systems).
- Importantly, the limited number of patients who chose to stay with the study for longer periods of time maintained these results through the one year mark.

■ **CRIVAN is generally well tolerated.**

- CRIVAN can be taken with a light meal or on an empty stomach. There are side effects associated with protease inhibitors in general and CRIVAN in particular. Some patients treated with CRIVAN may develop kidney stones. For some, this can lead to more severe kidney problems including kidney failure. Drinking at least 6 glasses of water each day may help reduce the chance of forming a kidney stone. Other side effects reported include rapid breakdown of red blood cells and liver problems. There are some common medications and AIDS-related medications you should not take with CRIVAN. Discuss all medications you are taking or plan to take with your doctor.
- As with other protease inhibitors, increased bleeding in some patients with hemophilia and increased blood sugar levels or diabetes have been reported. Please read the following page for detailed information on side effects and dosing.

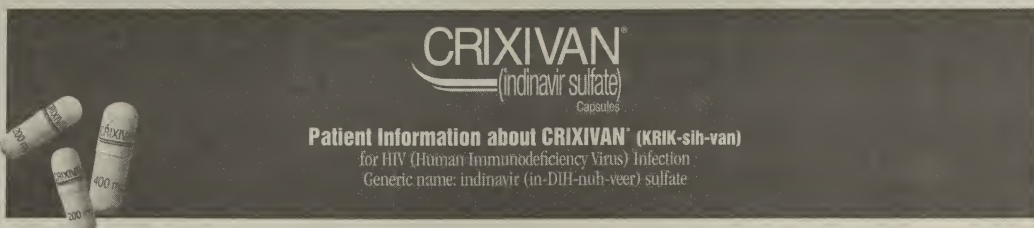
Please read the following page for more detailed information about CRIVAN.

CRIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIVAN can help reduce the chance of illnesses and death associated with HIV. CRIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4-T-cell count. Some patients may not experience these effects. CRIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS.

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Please read this information before you start taking CRIXIVAN. Also, you should read the information included with CRIXIVAN each time you receive your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this information does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss CRIXIVAN when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using CRIXIVAN and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is CRIXIVAN?

CRIXIVAN is an oral capsule used for the treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). CRIXIVAN is a type of HIV drug called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

How does CRIXIVAN work?

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

CRIXIVAN is usually prescribed with other anti-HIV drugs such as ZDV (also called AZT), 3TC, ddI, ddC, or d4T. CRIXIVAN works differently from these other anti-HIV drugs. Talk with your doctor about how you should take CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN has been studied in adults. The safety and effectiveness of CRIXIVAN in children and adolescents have not been established.

How should I take CRIXIVAN?

There are six important things you must do to help you benefit from CRIXIVAN:

1. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every day as prescribed by your doctor.** Continue taking CRIXIVAN unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of CRIXIVAN that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from CRIXIVAN, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays." If you don't take CRIXIVAN as prescribed, the activity of CRIXIVAN may be reduced (due to resistance).
2. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every 8 hours around the clock, every day.** It may be easier to remember to take CRIXIVAN if you take it at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take CRIXIVAN, your doctor or health care provider can help you decide what schedule works for you.
3. **If you miss a dose by more than 2 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time.** However, if you miss a dose by less than 2 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of CRIXIVAN at any one time.
4. **Take CRIXIVAN with water.** You can also take CRIXIVAN with other beverages such as skim or non-fat milk, juice, coffee, or tea.
5. **Ideally, take each dose of CRIXIVAN without food but with water at least one hour before or two hours after a meal.** Or you can take CRIXIVAN with a light meal. Examples of light meals include:
 - dry toast with jelly, juice, and coffee (with skim or non-fat milk and sugar if you want)
 - corn flakes with skim or non-fat milk and sugar

Do not take CRIXIVAN at the same time as any meals that are high in calories, fat, and protein (for example — a bacon and egg breakfast). When taken at the same time as CRIXIVAN, these foods can interfere with CRIXIVAN being absorbed into your bloodstream and may lessen its effect.

6. **It is critical that you drink at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) throughout the day, every day.** CRIXIVAN can cause kidney stones. Having enough fluids in your body should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Does CRIXIVAN cure HIV or AIDS?

CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking CRIXIVAN may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. Although CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses, including death, associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

Does CRIXIVAN reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

CRIXIVAN has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take CRIXIVAN?

Do not take CRIXIVAN if you have had a serious allergic reaction to CRIXIVAN or any of its components.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking CRIXIVAN. We do not yet know how CRIXIVAN affects pregnant women or their developing babies.
 - You are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding if you are taking CRIXIVAN.
- Also talk to your doctor if you have:
- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease caused by cirrhosis.
 - Problems with your kidneys.
 - Diabetes
 - Hemophilia

Tell your doctor about any medicines you are taking or plan to take, including non-prescription medicines.

Can CRIXIVAN be taken with other medications?*

Drugs you should not take with CRIXIVAN:

SELDANE® (terfenadine) HISMANAL® (astemizole)
VERSED® (midazolam) HALCION® (triazolam)
PROPULSID® (cisapride) Ergot medications (e.g., Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

Taking CRIXIVAN with the above medications could result in serious or life-threatening problems (such as irregular heartbeat or excessive sleepiness).

In addition, you should not take CRIXIVAN with rifampin, known as RIFADIN®, RIFAMATE®, RIFATER®, or RIMACTANE®.

Drugs you can take with CRIXIVAN include:

RETROVIR® (zidovudine, ZDV also called AZT) BIAXIN® (clarithromycin)
TAGAMET® (cimetidine) isoniazid (INH)
DIFLUCAN® (fluconazole) ORTHO-NOVUM 1/35® (oral contraceptive)

EPIMV® (lamivudine, 3TC) ZERIT® (stavudine, d4T)

BACTRIM®/SEPTA® (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole)

VIDEX® (didanosine, ddI) — If you take CRIXIVAN with VIDEX®, take them at least one hour apart.

MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin) — If you take CRIXIVAN with MYCOBUTIN®, your doctor may adjust both the dose of MYCOBUTIN and the dose of CRIXIVAN.

NIZORAL® (ketoconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with NIZORAL®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

Talk to your doctor about any medications you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of CRIXIVAN?

Like all prescription drugs, CRIXIVAN can cause side effects. The following is not a complete list of side effects reported with CRIXIVAN when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this page alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN developed kidney stones. In some of these patients this led to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure or inflammation of the kidneys. Drinking at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) each day should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had rapid breakdown of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia) which in some cases was severe or resulted in death.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had liver problems including liver failure and death. Some patients had other illnesses or were taking other drugs. It is uncertain if CRIXIVAN caused these liver problems.

Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. In some of these patients, this led to ketoacidosis, a serious condition caused by poorly controlled blood sugar. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients required adjustments to their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication.

In some patients with hemophilia, increased bleeding has been reported.

Clinical Studies

Increases in bilirubin (one laboratory test of liver function) have been reported in approximately 10% of patients. Usually, this finding has not been associated with liver problems. However, on rare occasions, a person may develop yellowing of the skin and/or eyes.

Side effects occurring in 2% or more of patients included: abdominal pain, fatigue or weakness, flank pain, feeling unwell, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, acid regurgitation, loss of appetite, dry mouth, back pain, headache, trouble sleeping, dizziness, taste changes, rash, upper respiratory infection, dry skin, and sore throat.

Swollen kidneys due to blocked urine flow occurred rarely.

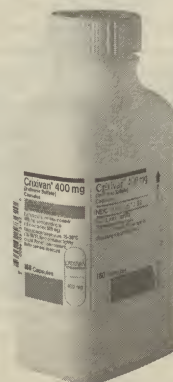
Marketing Experience

Other side effects reported since CRIXIVAN has been marketed include: abdominal swelling; inflammation of the kidneys; increased fat appearing in areas such as the neck, abdomen, and back; change in skin color; severe skin reactions; hair loss; crystals in the urine; and allergic reactions.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual symptoms. If the condition persists or worsens, seek medical attention.

How should I store CRIXIVAN capsules?

- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules in the bottle they came in and at room temperature (59°F–86°F).
- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules dry by leaving the small desiccant "pillow" in the bottle. Keep the bottle closed.



This medication is prescribed for a particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep CRIXIVAN and all medicines out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

This provides a summary of information about CRIXIVAN. If you have any questions or concerns about either CRIXIVAN or HIV, talk to your doctor.

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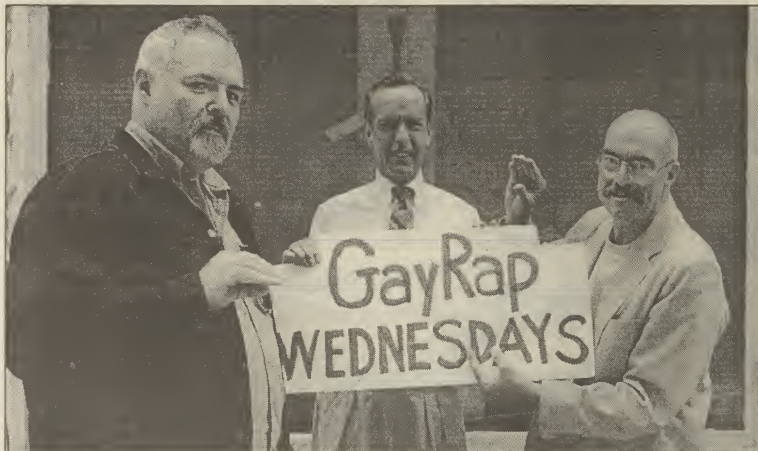
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COMMUNITY NEWS



Gay rappers David Kaye, Dick Gipson, and Hank Wilson

Gay Rap-city

by Timothy Rodrigues

Now that the music and television programs from the 1970s are popular again, some gay community organizers think a favorite resource from that time could be popular again, too. Gay Rap has been resurrected.

Gay Rap is described in promotional materials as "a structured discussion and activities program in which any participants can lead discussions or activities on any topic." It originally ran from 1970 to 1982, and was the genesis for many current community organizations ranging from the Pacific Center for Human Growth in Berkeley to the Theatre Rhinoceros.

Hank Wilson, David Kaye, and Dick Gipson, community organizers, are coordinating the re-birth and believe Gay Rap will offer something that has been missing in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) community.

"People came to Gay Rap to find community, to engage in discussions, and to meet people. Gay Rap is something people need today," said Wilson, an AIDS activist, in a prepared statement.

Kaye, co-founder of the Pacific Center in Berkeley, feels that the LGBT community has become very stratified and said that the goal of Gay Rap is to "try to achieve community."

Gay Rap began in Oakland in 1970 at the Bishop's Coffeehouse, a coffeehouse launched by a council of churches to help develop community. The meetings moved to San Francisco in 1972, but a group of individuals stayed behind and launched East Bay Gay, now known as the Pacific

Center for Human Growth.

In the early days, Gay Rap focused on community announcements and relaxation exercises, and the discussions generally examined the nature of community. Perhaps reflecting changing times, the discussions soon became more topical.

In an effort to diversify the program, some of those attending started a free community learning center called Lavender U - which earned a mention in a "Dear Abby" column. It is considered by some to be a precursor to today's Harvey Milk Institute.

Attendees also organized a running club that later became The Frontrunners. Alan Estes began doing play readings at the meetings, eventually forming Theatre Rhinoceros.

Community is good

Gay Rap reached its pinnacle in 1977 with up to 300 people attending the weekly meetings. Two decades later, organizers want to see if there is still a passion for this type of community meeting.

Wilson believes there is. "For the people coming right now, it is very successful," he said, adding, "Anything that facilitates community is really good."

Kaye stressed that the meetings are not run by anyone with an agenda, are open to anyone's opinion, and remain nonpartisan. "Gay Rap does not take any position on anything, we have no political agenda," said Kaye.

In fact, the meetings are in essence run by the participants. "Our agenda is to encourage people to do what ever they plan to do and let the chips fall where they may," said Kaye.

Those wishing to lead an activity or discussion are asked to write

their interest on a chalkboard when they enter the meeting room. After a community meeting including all in attendance, the group breaks up and people can join any of the groups that interest them. Some groups are popular, others don't get any participants.

Activities have included videos, card and board games, and massage; discussion topics have covered sexual compulsivity, the LGBT parade, the history of the gay political movement, and Northern California Congressman Frank Riggs's legislative effort targeting San Francisco.

Direct action on a given topic or issue is possible if those involved in that discussion choose to organize around it.

Kaye acknowledges that there has been some debate about whether this type of spontaneous community activity, popular during the unfolding of the LGBT community, will resonate now. Will people seek out something so simple in an era of multi-million dollar budgets for community nonprofits and community centers?

Organizers expect they will. "With the resurrection of SF Gay Rap, we're opening a new chapter of the book. Today, more than ever, a central community gathering spot is needed," said the organizers in promotional materials. "The only question today is what took us so long." ▼

Gay Rap meets every Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka Street between 18th and 19th streets. Call (415) 522-8700 for recorded information.

favor of his client, attorney Waukeen McCoy told the *Bay Area Reporter* that "it appears that what the judge intended was to inform the public that you'll be liable for not disclosing." He added that "I have been of the position the courts should play a role in stopping of the spread of AIDS, and I think this will help. I believe this is an important step. The only other case I know of like it was in the Rock Hudson case."

In that high profile matter, a jury found that although movie star Hudson's former companion, Marc Christian, tested negative 19 times, he was still entitled to \$21.75 million for emotional distress caused by his unknowing and unwilling exposure to HIV.

The judge later reduced the award to a "mere" \$5.5 million.

Betsy Johnsen, benefits attorney with the AIDS Legal Referral Panel in San Francisco, acknowledged that the ruling is nearly unprecedented apart from the Hudson case 13 years ago, but added that "frankly, it's not real clear to me how much effect a bankruptcy judge is going to have. It's equivalent to a county court. It still has a way to go up the appeals route. There are a lot of assumptions in the case."

Johnsen noted that 28 states have enacted laws making it a crime for people who know they're infected to expose others to HIV through one or more methods of viral transmission. ▼

\$25K HIV ruling

◀ page 1

San Francisco these days are both well aware of the risks of HIV, and knowingly assume those risks when they have sex. By willingly engaging in unprotected sex, Louie argued, Robinson was assuming at least a general risk of exposure.

Montali, however, ruled as he did because Robinson "believed, based on Louie's statements and conduct, that theirs was a monogamous relationship and that risk was negligible. Robinson was not sufficiently informed to know that the risk of exposure was actually much greater than that."

In responding to the ruling in

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SExN goes camping for Labor Day

by Shan Schwartz

Looking for a Labor Day escape?

San Francisco's Social Exchange Network (SExN) is inviting all gay men to its annual "Labor Day Getaway" at Saratoga Springs Resort September 4-7.

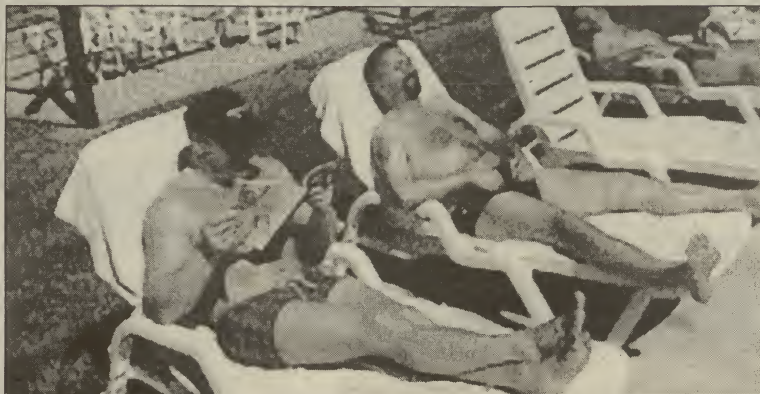
SExN has rented out the resort for the weekend, offering members and guests a private, exciting and relaxing weekend open to all gay men.

Located in Upper Lake, California (near Clear Lake), Saratoga Springs is a gay-owned, clothing-optional resort. The resort sits on 250 acres of forested ground, and facilities include a large swimming pool, hot tub, volleyball, hammocks tied to trees in the shade, and more.

Josh Bottfeld, founder of SExN, said there will be plenty of informal activities for participants, but the weekend is meant for leisure.

"It's very informal," Bottfeld said. "It's just a weekend to relax and have some fun."

Bottfeld said participants need bring only a sleeping bag, sunscreen, and other personal items, plus a desire to have fun.



Last year's SExN gathering at Saratoga Springs.

The weekend costs \$195, which includes camping/lodging fees, all recreation activities, and food and drink from Friday evening through Monday brunch. Ride-sharing arrangements can also be made for those who need transportation.

Deadline for reservations is this Friday, August 21. Reservations require a \$45 deposit, Bottfeld said, and all fees must be

paid by August 31.

Sleeping accommodations are located in a main lodge in bunk-style beds. Private double beds are available to couples on a first-

come, first-serve basis for \$15 per person extra. More adventurous campers can pitch a tent anywhere on the 250-acre site.

SExN describes itself as being

open to "any gay man willing to drop the attitude and be themselves." Founded in 1992, SExN is committed to providing activities for gay men who like to socialize, meet new people, and have fun.

Other events and trips throughout the year include weekend outings, rafting trips, trips to Disneyland, and a "quick fix weekend" at the Russian River. SExN also hosts "The Dinner," a monthly dinner social for men in relationships who are looking to meet other couples to socialize with. In 1996, SExN added a single men's version of "The Dinner" for men to meet, eat and socialize outside of a bar environment. ▼

For more information on the Labor Day Getaway, registration, or other upcoming SExN events, call Josh Bottfeld at (415) 431-9049, e-mail to sen@jps.net, or visit the group's web page at <http://www.jps.net/sen>.

Northwest bisexuals camp it up at Mt. Rainier

by Liz Highleyman

The Bisexual Network of Oregon (BiNET Oregon) will host their seventh annual gathering August 27-September 1. The event will take place at American Ridge in the Wenatchee National Forest near Mt. Rainier National Park in Washington state.

The secluded location of the campground, located on 50 acres near the American River, will allow participants to "get away from mainstream society" and "relax and be themselves," accord-

ing to organizer Kurt Geist.

The six-day event will include several loosely organized workshops on topics such as bisexual visibility, building coalitions within the queer community, and organizing among bisexuals. In addition, attendees are encouraged to host their own informal workshops.

Activities available at or near the campsite include fishing, hiking, horseback riding, and excursions to Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument and Mt. Rainier.

Geist noted that the goal of the gathering is to promote "commu-

nity building" among bisexuals in the region. Recent gatherings have been attended by participants throughout the Northwest, although all bisexuals and friends are welcome, and participants have come from as far away as Massachusetts and New Mexico.

Participants may attend all or any part of the gathering. ▼

For more information, including maps and directions, contact Kurt at (415) 265-5861 or by e-mail at geistnologging@hotmail.com.

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United Press International

A Pinellas County, Florida jury deliberated for less than an hour Thursday, August 13 before acquitting a Canadian tourist of sexually assaulting a male friend last year during a golfing vacation.

James Currie, a 39-year-old former police officer in Toronto, was accused of taking advantage of a drunken friend in the Clearwater condominium they shared during a two-week vacation. The man testified that he pretended to be passed out during the attack because he had always heard never to resist a rape.

But jurors apparently agreed with Currie's defense attorney, who argued that the sex was consensual and that the friend invented the attack because he was embarrassed that he had willingly engaged in sexual activity with another man.

Gay panic defense tossed

A three-day trial ended in conviction for a Naples, Florida man accused of murder. After deliberating for two hours, jurors convicted Clint Michael Barkley in

the slaying of Edward Collesano. Barkley was renting a room at the Collesano home in San Carlos Park where the murder occurred. Barkley claimed self-defense in the stabbing death, saying Collesano was gay and tried to force him to have sex. Barkley said when Collesano charged him with a knife, he was able to wrestle the weapon away and stab the 59-year-old man.

Pair rope and rob 'friend'

Two Cocoa Beach, Florida

men have been arrested for allegedly attacking and robbing a friend they were visiting. David Bennett, 29, and Cody Harmon, 23, were at Henry Lund's apartment when they allegedly tied him up, robbed him, and stole the keys to his pickup at knife point. Police chased the truck into Orange County, where the men allegedly jumped out and fled on foot. They were arrested soon after on charges of false imprisonment, grand theft auto, and armed robbery.

Lund is fine. ▼

GHB@GMHC: Bad combo

United Press International

Police in Suffolk County, New York say four people from Fire Island Pines were taken to local hospitals after apparent drug overdoses ahead of an annual AIDS fundraiser. Detectives say they all ingested the drug Gamma-Hydroxy Butyrate, also known as GHB.

Frank Giordano, a 35-year-old Bronxville man, was pronounced

dead shortly after he was discovered unconscious and rushed to Brookhaven Memorial Hospital. Detectives say they are still investigating the circumstances surrounding his death.

Police told the *New York Post* that Giordano took the drug at a private pre-party ahead of the Gay Men's Health Crisis annual "Morning Party." GMHC says the men were Fire Island regulars and not there for Sunday's Morning Party. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Methodist judicial council prohibits same-sex union ceremonies

by Vicky Kolakowski

The highest judicial council of the United Methodist Church ruled last week that the denomination's rules ban clergy from performing same-sex union ceremonies. The United Methodist Church, with 8.5 million members, is the second-largest American Protestant denomination.

The decision rendered by the Judicial Council on August 11 resulted from a request from the eight-state South Central Jurisdiction and several smaller church bodies, triggered by the acquittal in March of the Reverend Jimmy Creech, who was then the pastor of First United Methodist Church of Omaha, Nebraska.

Creech had been brought up on disciplinary charges after performing a union ceremony for two women congregants in September 1997. He successfully argued at trial that the placement of

denomination's prohibition on such ceremonies in the "Social Principles" section of the denomination's Book of Discipline meant that the rule was advisory and not binding.

The nine-member Judicial Council, made up of four clergy and five lay members, rejected Creech's argument after hearing opposing presentations, and ruled that the prohibition "has the effect of church law, notwithstanding its placement."

The decision does not affect the acquittal in Creech's case, but would affect future charges brought against Methodist clergy.

The Judicial Council also responded to a question from an Illinois jurisdiction about whether all of the Social Principles were binding on clergy, with a statement that they were "unable to render a definitive decision on all of the specific provisions ... without reference to a specific paragraph."

Creech immediately respond-

ed with a strongly worded statement, calling the church's position part of a "long-standing assault upon lesbians and gay men, as well as upon their families and friends and the churches that seek to be welcoming, inclusive and supportive." He characterized the rule as "an act of institutional violence" and called upon other Methodist pastors to defy the prohibition by performing such ceremonies. He also called upon supporters to press for revocation of the prohibition at the denomination's General Conference in Cleveland, Ohio in the year 2000.

The decision has placed many local gay-affirming Methodist clergy in a bind. The ruling is now church law, and opponents of same-sex relationships have demonstrated their willingness to use the church's judicial process to enforce the prohibition.

Ten Methodist ministers are among the more than 150 clergy who had previously signed an interfaith declaration that they support same-sex ceremonies and that they have or would in the future perform such ceremonies. Northern California Bishop Melvin Talbert has stated that such statements or previously performed ceremonies are not grounds for action, but that the prohibition would be enforced in the future.

One of the 10 clergy who signed the declaration was Reverend Cecil Williams, senior pastor at Glide Memorial United Methodist Church. Williams and

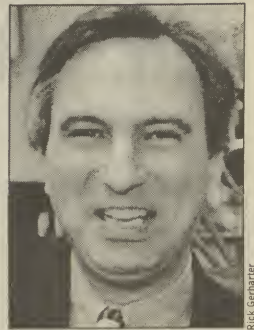
Glide Memorial have a long history of championing gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender inclusion. Williams declined to be interviewed by the *Bay Area Reporter*, and has previously publicly stated that he is considering his options with his attorneys.

The Reverend Jim Mitulski, senior pastor of Metropolitan Community Church of San Francisco, told the *B.A.R.* that the ruling was a "grave error, and the desperate nature of their reaction to something that is already happening shows that they've already lost the debate."

Mitulski expressed gratitude to the many Methodist pastors and congregations who have welcomed MCC churches. The MCC churches in Walnut Creek and in Santa Cruz presently worship in churches rented from Methodist congregations. He also praised Williams and Glide Memorial, which he called "our Cathedral of Liberation."

On August 5, the Lambeth Conference, an international gathering of Anglican bishops in Canterbury, England passed a resolution condemning homosexuality as "incompatible with Scripture" and advising against the ordination of gay and lesbian priests.

The conflict over same-sex unions and the ordination of gay and lesbian clergy threaten to divide many Protestant denominations, much as the issue of slavery divided Protestant denominations a century ago. That conflict led several denominations to split



Methodist Minister Jim Creech

into pro-slavery and anti-slavery denominations. Some see a similar realignment coming over gay and lesbian issues.

"It's only a matter of time before the United Methodists and many other denominations recognize the justice of affirming same-sex marriages," Mitulski said, but noted that this "may even require the realignment of American Protestant denominations along progressive and conservative lines - a new church for a new century, and queer people will be a part of it." ▼

Creech will be honored as a "living saint" by MCC-San Francisco at their annual Saints Alive benefit dinner and auction to be held on Saturday, September 19. He will also preach the following day at the church's 7 p.m. worship service. Call (415) 863-4434 for information.

Pulpit briefs: Pat gives himself award

United Press International

Televangelist Pat Robertson was in Orlando last weekend to be honored by the Christian Coalition of Florida. Robertson stirred controversy recently by criticizing Orlando officials for allowing rainbow flags to fly downtown to mark Gay Pride Month in June, and suggesting, as a result, God could punish the area with hurricanes and other natural disasters. Three protesters picketed outside as the Florida chapter of the Christian Coalition, an organization that Robertson founded and heads, honored him for "contributions to the pro-family movement."

Catholics force HIV confession

Lawyers for St. Francis Xavier Catholic School in Miami, Florida have filed a motion to dismiss charges filed by attorneys for a girl who says she was forced to confess to her class that she was HIV-positive.

Her attorneys say she was maliciously forced to make the confession, but the school says it was made willingly. It also said people with HIV are not guaranteed privacy, just their test results are.

The suit was filed by the girl and her lawyers in July and the motion to dismiss was filed August 6.

No confession for priest

In Texas, the bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth has changed his account of why a priest left his diocese amid a child molestation probe. At a news conference last week, Catholic Bishop Joseph P. Delaney said the attorneys for the Reverend Thomas Teczar told him Eastland County authorities agreed to close the investigation if Teczar left Texas. But the *Dallas Morning News* reported Teczar left after refusing to answer questions from a grand jury investigating a child sexual abuse case, in which two of his associates received 30-year prison terms. ▼

Science says: get religion from church, not TV

UPI Science News

People who tune in regularly to religious broadcast programming have higher blood pressure than those who get their religion in person at church, synagogue, or some other organized forum, a new study says.

Dr. Harold Koenig, a Duke University psychiatrist and head of its Center for the Study of Religion/Spirituality, told *United Press International* he was very surprised at that finding, one of many in his latest study on the power of religion.

"Those who frequently watch religious TV or radio were more likely to be told by their doctors that they had high blood pressure," most significantly in people

older than 74, he told UPI.

The finding is significant, he said, because blood pressure rises at least some in three quarters of those studied who listened to religious radio or watched religious TV at least once a week. That's more than the number of people who said they prayed or read the Bible daily.

Koenig and colleagues examined the health and habits of older adults in an overwhelmingly Protestant area of North Carolina for a six year period. Nearly 4,000 randomly selected individuals 65 and older took part.

Reporting in the latest issue of the *International Journal of Psychiatry in Medicine*, Koenig said consistent differences were found when blood pressure of the subjects was measured. ▼

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NEW TRIAL

Hepatitis C drug bundling puts combo therapy out of reach for many

by Timothy Rodrigues

A coalition that seeks to end the burgeoning hepatitis C (HCV) crisis has sent a letter to the sole distributor of Ribetol (ribavirin), one of only two available treatment options, to protest the pricing and distribution of the drug.

Until the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved ribavirin on July 3, the only treatment available to the estimated four million people in the United States infected with HCV was interferon, available from several

different drug companies.

Advocates with the Hepatitis C Action and Advocacy Coalition (HAAC) say that New Jersey-based Schering-Plough Pharmaceuticals paid \$16.5 million to ICN Pharmaceuticals, Inc. — the company that holds the manufacturing license — for the United States distribution rights to ribavirin, a drug available worldwide for many years. Thereafter, the company announced that the treatment would only be available "bundled" with its own brand of interferon, Intron A. According to HAAC, that practice limits pa-

tients' ability to use it with other brands of interferon, to which they may respond better.

HAAC also charges that Schering raised the price of ribavirin dramatically, estimating nearly a four-fold increase in three years. The bundled drug combination now sells for about \$1,450 per month, pricing it out of range for many struggling with HCV.

The decision to bundle the drugs also limits medical research on the newly-approved drug. "This is impeding research, because researchers cannot get ribavirin alone," said Brian Klein, a member of HAAC who is dual-diagnosed with HCV and HIV.

HAAC sent a letter on August 13 to Schering-Plough President Raul E. Cesan, asking for a meeting with company representatives and demanding that ribavirin be unbundled; that an expanded drug access program be enacted for those who cannot afford it; and that the price be brought down dramatically.

As stated in the letter sent by HAAC, "Schering's pricing of ribavirin, parallels that used by Burroughs-Wellcome for zidovudine (AZT) in its initial release for HIV disease in the late 1980s.

Burroughs also had a monopoly on a first drug for a major disease, a drug basically just 'pulled off the shelf' like ribavirin."

According to the American Liver Foundation, nearly four million people in the United States are chronically infected with hepatitis C, a slowly progressive disease that may gradually advance over 10-40 years, often without symptoms.

It is generally transmitted through needle stick injuries or the sharing of dirty needles, blood transfusions before a test of blood supply was standardized in 1990, or body piercing or tattooing with contaminated needles. There is a standard blood test for the presence of HCV.

The problems can be particularly acute in those who are dual-diagnosed with both HCV and HIV, since people who have liver damage from HCV have an inability to tolerate anti-HIV drug cocktails. According to HAAC, people who are HIV-positive still cannot obtain a liver transplant in California due to their HIV infection, although other states such as New York will perform the surgery.

"People want ribavirin available so they have a choice ... it's

really unethical of them not to let people have options," said Klein. "With hepatitis C, we are in our infancy with drug therapies for treatment."

HAAC members are still waiting for a response from Schering-Plough. A spokesperson for Schering-Plough stated that the bundled pairing is the only FDA-approved use of ribavirin in the United States and would not answer any further questions. ▼

The Hepatitis C Support Project offers support groups in the Bay Area for individuals infected with HCV, for more information please call the help line at (415) 834-4100 or the hotline at (415) 676-4888.

The HCV Global Foundation presents the Second International HCV Conference, **The Silent Epidemic of Hepatitis C**, at the Oakland Marriott City Center, August 23-25, \$125 before August 15 (pricing available for partial attendance); for information call KREBS Convention Management Services at (415) 920-7000 or e-mail: krebsconv@aol.com

HIV COMMUNITY FORUM: "INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE 1998: UPDATE ON WASTING AND BODY COMPOSITION CHANGES."

by

RICHARD CAZEN, MD

DIVISION OF GASTROENTEROLOGY, CPMC - DAVIES CAMPUS
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Testosterone decreases HIV-related fatigue

United Press International

Scientists say they have discovered that the male hormone testosterone decreases the fatigue caused by the AIDS virus and can improve the mood of people suffering from HIV disease.

Reporting in the August issue of *General Hospital Psychiatry*, lead author Dr. Glenn Wagner of the New York State Psychiatric Institute said testosterone injections can reduce fatigue, even in people with full-blown AIDS.

Injections may help men who are too fatigued to return to their jobs, he said.

Wagner said, "Effective treatments for fatigue, such as testosterone, are particularly important for enhancing the quality of life and functioning for people living

with HIV."

A deficiency of testosterone seems to be one cause of fatigue in people infected with HIV, he said. Testosterone deficiency is the most common hormone abnormality among men with HIV. Another cause is depression. Fatigue is one factor used to diagnose depression.

Wagner and a team of colleagues tested the effects of bi-weekly injections of testosterone in 66 HIV-positive men with "clinical hypogonadism," a condition characterized by low interest in sex and such symptoms as depression, low energy, or weight loss. About three fourths of the 66 had AIDS, and half were on disability.

But Wagner found that energy levels in 79 percent of the men were significantly improved after 12 weeks of injections. The men who responded to the treatment

also reported greater satisfaction with their lives.

It's possible the testosterone treatments relieved depression, which caused the fatigue, but just as likely the testosterone boosted energy levels, which improved mood, he said.

Researchers said: "Improvement in energy level was almost always accompanied by improvement in mood. It seems likely that for some, fatigue may be a symptom of depression, where as for others, fatigue and its debilitating effect on functioning may result in depression or psychological distress."

Some men experienced side effects, including acne, hair loss, and irritability, but none discontinued their treatment. Wagner said the long-term effects of testosterone therapy were not known. ▼

Streisand Foundation gives \$15K to GLMA

by Cynthia Laird

The Streisand Foundation has awarded the San Francisco-based Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA) a \$15,000 grant toward the group's HIV public policy initiative, the groups announced this month.

The initiative is a program designed to increase the national effectiveness of HIV-sensitive physicians on HIV policy. Sue Rochman, communications director for GLMA, said that the organization received the grant following an extensive review process that included final ap-

proval by singer and actress Barbra Streisand.

"The work that GLMA is doing to increase the impact that HIV-sensitive physicians will have on national HIV policy is important and very necessary," said Margery Tabankin, executive director of the Streisand Foundation. "We are glad to be able to assist with this wonderful project and proud that our grant will enable GLMA's work to have a greater impact."

GLMA's initiative is comprised of three distinct programs. The Physician's Advocacy Network, launched this summer, enlists GLMA members into a national

network designed to shape public policy. Secondly, the association's ability to provide expert medical feedback on HIV and LGBT issues will be used to aid the Department of Health and Human Services, medical associations, and pharmaceutical companies. Finally, the initiative encompasses GLMA's ongoing advocacy efforts that address HIV, access, and the health-care setting, such as the Medical Expertise Retention Program.

"We are thrilled to receive this generous grant from Barbra Streisand," said Dr. Michael Horberg, GLMA president. "What a fabulous partner to have in our fight to eradicate HIV!" ▼



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New Leaf is funded through the San Francisco Dept. of Public Health, Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and Office, Commission on Aging, Mayor's Office of Community Development, UCSF, State of CA, grants including Academy of Friends, Horizons, Macy's and Wells Fargo.

OBITUARIES

Christopher "Chris" Kinsella

A native of St. Louis, Missouri, Chris came to San Francisco just a few years ago. Once he got here, he got active with the San Francisco Lesbian and Gay Freedom Band, the Bay Area Phoebe Snow Society, and Grace Cathedral. Chris was employed by Macy's until the end of June, 1998, when he resigned in order to return to his native city. Before leaving, he came down with the flu, which went on to pneumonia. On Sunday, August 2, Chris suffered heart failure and died peacefully while doing crossword puzzles. His body has been returned to St. Louis for burial. A special Eucharistic Service was held in

Chris's memory at Grace Cathedral on Thursday, August 13, at 4 p.m.

Mike Hilgert
1950 — 1998

Born in Michigan, Mike moved to San Francisco in the early 1980s. While being a successful businessman kept him in the comfort to which he could grow accustomed, Mike really enjoyed partying and living life to the fullest. Whether he was playing at the Hot-house or dancing at the Troc or Pleasure-dome, the Mayor of Ringold Alley was never too busy to regale you with story after story about life. Boy could he talk!



One of Mike's greatest passions was fan dancing. Mike could bring any song to life with a pair of fans in his hands. Who could possibly forget the beauty and artistry as he became American Love, abandoning himself to the pull of the melody with Vince, Joshua, Donna, Pinball, Godfather Frank, Big and Little Chuck, Nickie, and all the others twirling away around him? I know I won't forget him. He'll always be with me when I touch a pair of fans.

ACT UP

◀ page 1

treatable strain of the virus will continue to grow.

So, why did it take two years from the introduction of combination therapy before men at risk of infection were told about the potential for being infected with drug-resistant virus HIV?

The sad truth is that in the euphoria over the success of combination therapies for people with HIV we dropped the ball on HIV prevention. Instead of addressing the realities of how new HIV treatments affect HIV prevention, we continued to repeat the same tired and increasingly irrelevant safer sex messages from the early 1990s. We allowed the only new messages about HIV to be communicated through newspaper headlines of HIV cures and by pharmaceutical company advertisements touting the new wonder drugs. People saw these headlines and read ads with pictures of healthy men climbing mountains and, in the absence of real information, they have started to believe that the epidemic is over and they can stop using condoms.

Well, if the Geneva conference proved anything it proved that the AIDS epidemic ain't over yet. The documentation of multidrug-resistant HIV transmission should serve as a wake up call to all of us that we need new HIV prevention campaigns and messages that ad-

dress the changes in the epidemic. These messages need to emphasize that the epidemic isn't over and infection today may mean starting out with virus that cannot be treated with current drugs.

We also need to give better information to people living with HIV and let them know that anyone having unsafe sex could infect partners with drug-resistant HIV. Equally important, those HIV-positive people could be re-infected with a strain of the virus that is resistant to drugs. This would limit your future treatment options or blow your current drug therapy or both.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) heard the wake up call from Geneva and quickly developed a two-page warning about transmission of drug-resistant HIV in the *Bay Area Reporter*. They addressed both HIV-negative men and HIV-positive men to help them understand their risks.

In an effort to get some of this information out to gay men, ACT UP/Golden Gate has been importing posters created last year by Boston's AIDS Action Committee. We have been putting the posters in bars and sex clubs to let gay men know what the changes in HIV treatment mean for safer sex. One of the posters emphasizes that the epidemic isn't over and that, while progress has been

made, the new drugs are not a cure. You either have the option of continuing to use condoms or taking 10 or more pills a day, which will make you nauseated, can have toxic and disfiguring side effects, and require you to alter your daily routine and meal schedules. Two other posters from Boston address HIV-positive men and let them know that having undetectable virus does not mean that you are uninfected. (Addressing HIV prevention messages to people living with HIV may be considered politically incorrect by some people. But, we believe that all of us, both negative and positive, have a responsibility to avoid HIV transmission.)

The SFAF performed an important service to the community by publishing their well-prepared and thoughtful warnings in the *B.A.R.* but we need more and better messages in long-term campaigns that target all the at-risk communities. Other San Francisco prevention agencies must also hear the wake up call from Geneva and develop relevant and up-to-date HIV prevention campaigns, messages, and programs. Two years of inaction have put people at risk and we cannot wait a minute longer to give people the information they need to keep themselves and their lovers healthy. ▼



ACT UP

Muni bashing

◀ page 1

Tori Isner, Gervais's 47-year-old lover and mother of two grown children, who lives in San Francisco.

Gervais has also received very personal emotional support from a self-identified transsexual woman she met in the shelter where she has been living. The woman, who attended the court hearing, spent eight weeks in the hospital after being attacked by six men in her former city.

"I have a lot of understanding about what she [Gervais] is going through emotionally because I've been there," said the woman, who asked that her name and former city of residence be withheld. "One thing I have realized is that with this being a hate crime, it has taken forever to go to trial." She specified that after her attack the community, including the transgender community, rallied and worked with lawyers and the district attorney to get her case to trial quickly.

Not a hate crime?

Gervais has been working with Community United Against Violence (CUAV) during the eight month wait. "In general, this has been a long process and a difficult one, especially for Rosanne, and it's just one of those things where you feel re-victimized all over again going through the system," said Kar Yin Tham, hate violence



Bashing victim Rosanne Gervais

victim advocate at CUAV.

Representatives from CUAV told the *Bay Area Reporter* shortly after the incident that they felt this was a hate crime and would be taking the matter up with the police and district attorney's office.

To the continued astonishment of Gervais and her supporters, the police refused to investigate the incident as a hate crime. Therefore, despite Gervais's recollection that her attackers used anti-gay and derogatory rhetoric during the attack, the district attorney could not charge it as such.

A police spokesman said that the classification of an incident as a "prejudice based" crime can be made either if the statement of the victim or witnesses at the scene included some mention that an aspect of the crime involved prejudice or bias, or after an investigator looks into to incident and determines that such occurred.

Neither the arresting nor investigating officers in this case, after two reviews, chose to classify it as a hate crime, reportedly due to the lack of corroborating witnesses. ▼

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization. No poetry is allowed. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, please write their name on the back. If you include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and a phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.



Michael R. Shelton
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Lassoed

by Jim Provenzano

One of the strangest creatures I encountered in Amsterdam was a rictus of a pouting gentleman known as Marcel, whose position at Gay Games V was Media Commandant. It seemed logical to Marcel to demand that members of the media should pay to see events that those media members had promoted months ago. I disagreed.

"Members of the press criticizing Gay Games? Who says this?" Marcel sniped as he loomed over myself and B.A.R. photogs Rick Gerharter and Darlene.

Perhaps I shouldn't have said, "I wrote an article on the sport climbing guy who will win the

gold."

When confronted with my presumptive prediction, Herr Marcel turned snippy and threatened to withhold any more press tickets. Marcel was on a power trip, big time. This was applied to all media, mind you, except the ones with the biggest cameras, such as IDTV (more on their revisionist cinematography later).

Marcel skulked around the media center like Basil Rathbone in *The Tower of London*, looking for favor to succor and pawns in his own petty game of chess. Guess who got rooked?

Pretty much all the small gay newspapers who didn't suck up to the barrel of lies Marcel (et al.) were spooning.

An Australian journalist/athlete — one of us in the small press

who played the game of dealing with these people, and printing their assurances of competence, only to find out otherwise — accurately called Marcel "off his kit."

Three days into the event, half the sports results had not been posted. One copy of the reported scores was available, somewhere, and we had to copy it ourselves while half a dozen "Friends" sat on their asses behind little yellow counters, repeated their favorite phrase, "I don't know. Perhaps later today. Can you check back?"

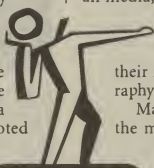
Tether

Okay here's an event that was fun, well-organized, had little inside scandal, and, best of all, as I predicted, a homeboy won the gold (if you're into that competitive thang).

Last January, sportclimber Craig Pack graced this column as one of few Bay Area climbers, er, in fact the only one, I think, who competed at the Games. He won the gold by some Zen form of concentration and, oh yes, years of experience.

Climbers all get to try a newly designed pattern of climbs arranged by color code up the walls of the Klimmuur Centraal building. Set at a 45-degree angle, the box of a building lies nestled behind a wrap of rail overpass along a pier jutting east from Central Station. It was easy to find, despite so many prepositions, on a bike, and after asking directions from the cuutest Politi man, I found my way.

Anyway, once into my paid sporting event with new pal Domingo from Venezuela (who also smartly rented a bike), I tried to forget the abusive situation with Gay Games media, especially one who called me a "typical American" while expelling mucous between syllables.



Sports Complex



Top wall crawler Craig Tack of San Francisco

Was it just a problem with ticketing at the venue ("We want all the money!") or just Gay Games people not getting a clue? Or was just that Marcel's prescription had run out?

Fuck it. Enjoy the sports, I told myself, in spite of these cads. As a triathlete said of them, "What comes around goes around."

Like a rock

And what went up came down but bouncing at sportclimbing. The added element of rock music and a packed audience lent itself to a way different ambience than say, hanging from a cliff face in a pristine national park. This was *showtime*, but saying "Break a leg," didn't sound right.

Laced with trails of multi-colored steps and nubs, the inside of der Klimmuur resembled a wall-to-wall M&M cookie. Not so Xtreme as more cable-TV-concocted events, the sportclimbing finals got underway on time, and were well-produced. The day before, *The Daily Friendship* had included a nice shot of climber and wrestler Martin Lont, who also hosted goldster Pack. It's a small world after all, but the most popular sports are those with publicists.

After being hidden away behind a curtain, competitors get a few minutes to inspect their route. Watching Pack and other climbers prepare showed how they think, or memorize their potential

moves. The collection of raised arms, palms open and shifting from place to place, began to resemble a form of worship. Rock worship. Well, masonite today, or der Masonstruck. "It was a great day," he said of it all.

Later, Pack ambled up with an assurance that built as he nearly completed the trek. It was graceful and steady, parring on a level of Spiderman between crime fighting bouts.

"Not high enough" was Rich Ellison's self-deprecating remark following his performance in the finals. Ellison, who's "been climbing for a long time," said that "everyone here has been really friendly with each other, supporting each other a lot."

"Everone's pushing everyone else to do better," he said as we watched a Berlin finalist scale the blue trail and the so-busy show-bizzy music permeated the air. I learned then that the disc jockey even honored requests. "Some people asked for songs," Rich said. "I wasn't even aware they were going to ask us." He climbed to Bowie's "Space Oddity." And won the Silver. Sounds high enough to us. ▼

Next week (or as soon as I can get stills from my video camera), lesbian Malaysian gold medalist sportclimber Yeun-li Chan!

GAY GAMES '98

Results: sportclimbing

Sorry, Gay Games did not release country-coded results. 1= Gold; 2= Silver; 3= Bronze.

Men C-level:

1. Ray Bondoc; 2. Achim Otto

B-level:

1. Geir Tjonneland; 2. Philip Judson; 3. Johann Ducker

A-level:

1. Craig Pack; 2. Richard Ellison; 3. Peter Jackson

Women C-level:

1. Lauri Stock; 2. Lilian Louwerse; 3. Stormy Jean E. Tyler; 4. Theresa Morris

B-level:

1. Yeun-li Chan; 2. Anita Saunders; 3. Jill White

A-level:

1. Nicole Pirpamer; 2. Alix Kokula

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L to R: Craig Tack, gold; Peter Jackson, bronze; Rich Ellison, silver

American dies in Amsterdam after accident

United Press International

A well-known Colorado public relations figure critically hurt when he was hit by a car in Amsterdam for the Gay Games has lost his battle for life. Kelvin McNeill, the 28-year-old communications director for the Colorado Springs-based Gill

Foundation, died Tuesday, August 18 in Holland, 11 days after he was struck.

McNeill was former public information officer for Boulder police, and frequently took on the national media during news conferences about the JonBenet Ramsey case. The Gill Foundation is an outreach group for the gay and lesbian community. ▼

SPORTS

The dressiest event of Gay Games

Latin ballroom dancing finals

by Mary Richards and Darlene/PhotoGraphics

The most dazzling venue in Amsterdam by far was the ballroom dancing. Not only was it well organized, it was hot, sexy and exciting to watch. It was held in the Sporthallen Zuid Gymnasium under glittering jeweled chandeliers, with over 250 well-dressed contestants dancing their way into gay history.

Dancers took to the floor to strut their stuff as part of the Latin American Ballroom competition in the categories of Samba, Cha-Cha-Cha, Rhumba, Paso doble, and Jive. The ravers rocked to the sensuous sounds of Latin rhythms as dancers from all over the world took turns twirling each other around the dance floor, their supple bodies synchronized to the music as well as each other.

Dance demonstrations have been held during the Gay Games in the past, but they were nothing to compare to the real challenge of judged competition taking place in Amsterdam for 500 athletes in the categories of Ballroom Dancing and Latin American Ballroom. Monitors walked the floor, under the glare of colored theater lights, grading the competitors and reporting back to the podium for the judges' final decision.

Athletes danced in heats within their classes all day long, from 10 a.m. until early evening, when the final judging was to take place. Some showed signs of strain after their hours of performance, but were revived by the outpouring of emotion and gratitude from an enthusiastic audience that filled the auditorium with cheers, applause, and shouts of appreciation for the competitors.

Dancing like new lovers despite their having only danced together for three months, Steffi

Schmitz and Vayu Pogacar, both from Cologne, were magnificent to watch. And they enjoyed watching others, too.

"To be here with all the gays and lesbians and to enjoy the high level we have seen is wonderful," Schmitz said. Pogacar added, "You see even in the very low classes [of dance categories] they are so motivated, and that's really beautiful. We enjoy performing when everyone is together. It's a great event, and we have a wonderful audience. Since 12 o'clock they come more and more. It's a wonderful feeling to dance in this atmosphere."

Another couple - Elizabeth Johnston, of Canada, and Sally Angel of Medford, Oregon - were wonderful to watch as they laughed, smiled, and danced the afternoon away, so natural with each other that they made on-lookers feel privy to a special moment in their lives.

Competition, not demo

The classes of competition ranged from A to F (lowest), but all athletes interviewed were impressed with the high level of dancing skill displayed. Anna Maassen, press spokesperson for the event, said there were 189 couples competing in the Latin American category, including 117 female couples, 79 male couples, and seven wheelchair dance couples. Countries represented included Austria, Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Great Britain, Germany, Israel, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, and the USA.

Maassen was proud of the decision of the organization that planned the dance event, Equality Dance. "Wheelchair and all other competitors danced on the same day, it was nicer," she said. "Before it was just a demonstration sport. This is the first time in the history of the games that ballroom dancing is now a competi-

tive sport. People have trained a long time to come here." Their international jury of judges included Peter Townsend from England, a three-time international champion.

There were 10 couples from the Metronome Ballroom in San Francisco, and four people participated in the Latin Dance finals. George Moscona and his partner Douglas Mitchell, elegantly glided past demonstrating their dancing with style and panache. They placed fourth in the Latin finals in category D. Another couple, Mascha and Paula, took the Silver medal in category E.

Peter Gaartman of Amsterdam danced with his friend and partner, Rolf Lichtenberg. Gaartman said that dancing together cheered them up and gave them a new lease on life after they both broke up with lovers. "For me I know that I live in freedom in Holland," Gaartman stated. "It's very important for other countries that we do something like Gay Games to show the world that everybody needs that freedom to be yourself. For me, this



George C. Moscona (left) and Douglas Mitchell

week, it was unbelievable to see all my family around me, and what for me was very good was to see the power of some countries.

"There was one person from Iran and two from Portugal, and I hope they have been given my love to go on and be gay." ▼

LEGAL NOTICES

DHS RFP #136

The City and County of San Francisco, Department of Human Services (SFDHS)

is seeking qualified organizations to provide client advocacy services to participants in the Department's Personal Assisted Employment Services (PAES) programs. Client advocates will represent clients of DHS PAES programs in grievance procedures and appeals process.

An RFP packet may be picked up at SFDHS, 170 Otis Street, 8th Floor, beginning Monday, August 17, 1998. Office hours are from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. RFP is due Wednesday, September 9, 1998 by 2:00 PM NO EXCEPTIONS. For further information to receive a RFP packet, call Rosa Inez at (415) 557-5538 or Louis Voccia at (415) 557-6594.

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GAY GAMES '98

Gay Games V medal round-up:

The following is a list of medals won at the recent Gay Games in Amsterdam, divided by country:

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze
United States	86	73	72
Germany	51	51	66
Netherlands	36	39	48
Great Britain	9	7	2
Sweden	7	0	3
Switzerland	3	0	3
Canada	2	5	3
South Africa	2	1	0
New Zealand	2	0	1
Thailand	2	0	0
Australia	1	5	3
France	1	2	6
Belgium	1	2	4
Czech Republic	1	2	2
Denmark	1	2	0
Finland	1	1	0
Singapore	1	0	0
Surinam	1	0	0
Brazil	0	1	0
Ireland	0	1	0
Norway	0	0	3
Italy	0	0	1
Spain	0	0	1
Austria	0	0	1

STATEMENT FILE NO. 224402
The following person(s) are doing business as Rustica-Castro 4077 18th St. SF., CA 94114. This business is conducted by an limited liability company signed Byron Gougoumis. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 7/22/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 7/22/98
JULY 30, AUGUST 6, 13, 20, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 224344
The following person(s) are doing business as Enhancing Gifts 4802 Geary Blvd, SF., CA 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Wayne Hayakawa. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 7/21/98
JULY 30, AUGUST 6, 13, 20, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 224369
The following person(s) are doing business as Ed Hamilton Photography 522 Arkansas St. SF., CA 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Edward J. Hamilton. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 7/21/98
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STATEMENT FILE NO. 224366
The following person(s) are doing business as Grand Central Auction Company 1632 A Market St. SF., CA 94102. This business is conducted by an corporation signed Robert McCartney, President. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and

County of San Francisco, CA on 7/21/98
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STATEMENT FILE NO. 224419
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JULY 30, AUGUST 6, 13, 20, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 224449
The following person(s) are doing business as Frisco Tee's 135 10th St. SF., CA 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Raul Villaseñor. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 6/16/96. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 7/24/98
JULY 30, AUGUST 6, 13, 20, 1998

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE
JULY 29, 1998. To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: Kuna Claudia Ines. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 41 FRANKLIN St. San Francisco, CA 94102. For the following type of License: 41 ON-SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE.
AUGUST 6, 13, 20, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 224743
The following person(s) are doing business as ASIA Video Media 236 West Portal Ave., #509 SF., CA 94127. This business

is conducted by an individual signed Vincent Lee. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 8/07/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 8/07/98.
AUGUST 13, 20, 27 SEPT. 3, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 224654
The following person(s) are doing business as 1)North Cal Roofing 2)Nor Cal Roofing 3)Nor-Cal Roofing 4)Northern California Roofing #1041 Quesada Ave. SF., CA 94124. This business is conducted by an corporation signed John Bailey Inc., President. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on 01/01/98. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 8/03/98.
AUGUST 13, 20, 27 SEPT. 3, 1998

STATEMENT FILE NO. 224784
The following person(s) are doing business as The Gondola Cafe And Deli. 1485 Bayshore Ave #53 SF., CA 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Lloyd J. Lee. The registrant commenced to transact business under the above-listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 8/10/98.
AUGUST 13, 20, 27 SEPT. 3, 1998

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
Date of filing Application: August 6, 1998. To Whom It May Concern: The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: Fulton Andrew Charles, O'Callaghan Gilson Riley. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1785 Fulton St. SF., CA 94117. For the following type of License: 48 ON-SALE General Public Premises.

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PUBLIC POLICY DIRECTOR
Growing nat'l lesbian/gay medical org. seeks exp'd director of public policy to direct org's policy work. Work closely with Board, LGBT groups, medical societies, govt. to promote non-discrimination in healthcare. Serve on mgmt. team and supervise policy staff. Have exlnt writing skills, knowledge of LGBT health issues. Salary: \$50K+ benefits Letter & resume by 9/8 to: GLMA, 459 Fulton St., #107, SF, CA 94102, Attn: PD. People of color, women, encouraged to apply.

Models wanted 18-26 lean, smooth fashion underwear nude semi-nude Page (415)202-6486. Good pay.



The San Francisco Pride Committee
is seeking to recruit 2 new staff members
at this exciting stage of its development:

Production Manager: Facilitates the event planning process, responsible for permitting, ordering of supplies and equipment, event site management and budget administration.

Community Outreach Director: Responsible for outreach to Bay Area LGBT organizations, volunteer management, membership, newsletter, grant program and Board Development.

Competitive salary and benefits package apply to both positions. Respond with resume to: The Executive Director, SF LGBT Pride Committee Inc., 1390 Market St, Suite 1225, SF, Ca 94102. Call (415) 864-3733 for full job descriptions or see our web site at: <http://www.sf-pride.org>. Deadline for receipt of resumes September 4, 1998. Interviews will be held the week of September 7, 1998. SFLGBTCC IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYMENT

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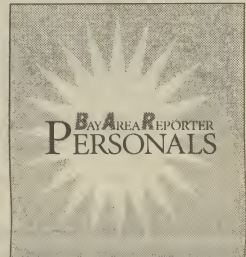
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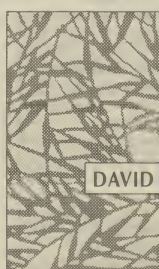


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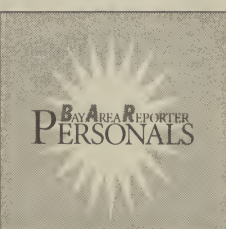
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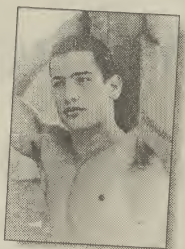
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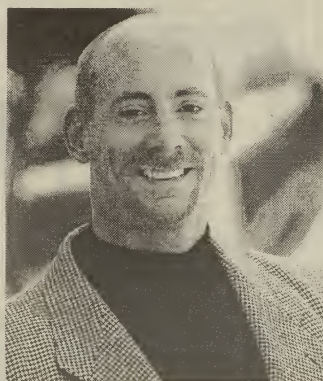
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Late-life celebrity
Quentin Crisp dispenses
advice on style at 89.
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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

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Laugh riot

by Gary Morris

With "Universal Laughter," the Castro is offering a welcome chance to become reacquainted with some classics of the genre outside the cramped confines of video, but the title of the series is a bit misleading. Only eight of the fourteen films here were actually made by Universal Studios; the rest, and arguably the best — two vehicles each for Mae West and the Marx Brothers, and a pair of Preston Sturges masterpieces — are from Paramount. (Universal now owns the rights to them.) Of course, with a program this solid — Universal's entries here include W. C. Fields, Rock and Doris, Dietrich, Lubitsch, and perhaps the greatest of the 1930s screwball comedies, *My Man Godfrey* — who cares what it's called? Opening night's show (Friday, August 21) is the Preston Sturges double bill, *The Palm Beach Story* (1942) and *Sullivan's Travels* (1941). *Palm Beach* teams hunky "regular guy" Joel McCrea and sophisticated Claudette Colbert as a daffy inventor and his scheming wife. As always in Sturges, the script is sharp ("Chivalry is

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The Marx Brothers in
Duck Soup

'Universal Laughter' at the Castro

Goodness had nothing to do with it

by Tavo Amador

In her first film, Paramount's *Night After Night* (1932), someone asks Mae West if she believes in love at first sight. "I don't know," she muses, "but it sure saves a lot of time." That response sums up West's philosophy about sex: funny, practical, and above all, pleasurable. Already 40, the zaftig, Brooklyn-born (1892) West had been a child theatrical star, a vaudevillian, and a popular playwright/actress with shows like *The Constant Sinner* and *Sex*. (The scandal erupting from the latter cost her ten highly publicized days in jail.) She wrote and produced but didn't star in *The Drag* (yes, it was about drag queens), and shortly before coming to Hollywood toured with the most successful of her plays, *Diamond Lil*. Public response to her screen debut was overwhelming, and the studio rushed to film *Lil*, calling it *She Done Him Wrong* (1933). In it, Mae seduces young Salvation Army officer Cary Grant. "Come up and see me sometime. How about Tuesday? That's amateur night." She played a lion-tamer in *I'm No Angel* (1933), also with Grant. The films made so much money that producer William Le Baron credited them with saving Paramount from bankruptcy. Despite her

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Mae West films at the Castro

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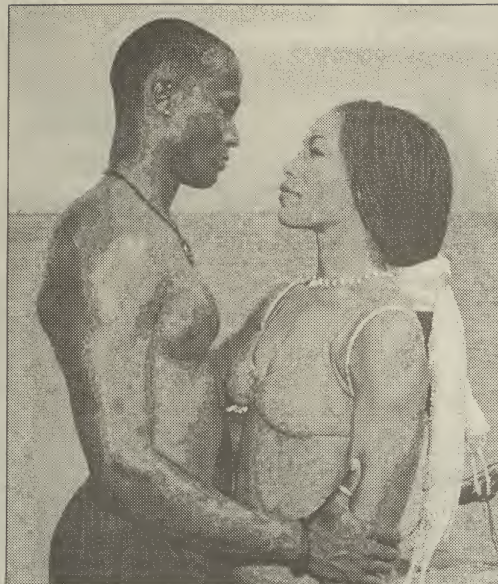
We're willing to wait for a few more issues and see how fledgling *New Yorker* editor **David Remnick** does as a **Tina** substitute in the ultimate editorial hot seat, though we note he's no fan of the *New Journalism*, having said that he finds it "inflates the trivial to the significant, and reduces the significant to the trivial." Of course, we beg to disagree. We think the trivial exceedingly significant. For example, consider the following seemingly trivial Broadway anecdote: When handsome actor **Taye Diggs** landed his role opposite **Angela Bassett** in *How Stella Got Her Groove Back* (see **Robert Julian's** review, p. 36), *Movieline* magazine reports, "he dropped trou in front of his fellow cast members and did a stark naked run up and down the aisles of the Nederlander Theater, where he was starring as one of the original cast members of the Tony-winning musical *Rent*."

An isolated incident, you say? Further along in the same article, Diggs admits, "When my girlfriend and I order Chinese food and the delivery cat comes to the door, I'll go into the next room for my wallet, then come back with my boxer shorts around my ankles and a totally straight look on my face." Hmmm. Ever consider employment at one of San Francisco's fine all-male theatres, Taye? We think you have the talent and the temperament for it.

Word from our spy in the audience at the KMEL screening for *Stella* was that the audience (predominantly black teenage girls, natch) positively screamed with delight during Taye's nude scene in the shower, during which you reportedly get an eyeful of rear action. But the slow, loving pan down his glistening wet bod rudely cuts off — squeals of disappointment from the teeny-bopper crowd — just before the dick shot.

Trial by bio

A whole branch of literary endeavor — the unauthorized biography — is predicated on the importance of small matters, a literary game Mr. Remnick might be tempted to call *Trivial Pursuit*. In **Phoebe Hoban's** *Basquiat: A Quick Killing in Art* (Viking), a new biography of '80s painter **Jean-Michel Basquiat**, for example, we learn that his lovers (of



Taye Diggs and Angela Bassett in *How Stella Got Her Groove Back*

both sexes) included then-Material Girl **Madonna**. There's more than glamour to Basquiat's story, of course, and plenty of tragedy. On a more trivial note, however, his father once stabbed Jean-Michel in the buttock, and Basquiat later claimed it was because he was caught having sex with a male cousin.

But butt-stabbing is nothing compared to the number that biographer **Ellis Amburn** does on *On the Road* author **Jack Kerouac** in his controversial new book *Subterranean Kerouac: The Hidden Life of Jack Kerouac* (St. Martin's Press). Amburn, who was Ker-

quired.

"By the neck, I hope," he said. "We doubt there's been another bio in literary history with chapter titles like 'The Agonized Cock of the Matter,' 'Muscles, Meat, and Metaphysics,' and (we kid you not) 'Sucking Asses To Get Published,' and this may be the reason Amburn's tome has been getting thoroughly panned in the mainstream press. But *Out There* believes the topic of Kerouac's homoness (-sexuality and -phobia) is a valid one to explore, especially as it sheds light on his works. *New York Times* reviewer **Morris Dickstein**, in his trouncing of the book, calls attention to a letter Kerouac wrote in 1948 to **Neal Cassidy**, the heartthrob hero of *On the Road*, "worrying that future readers studying his letters would think him 'queer.'"

"I consider queerness a hostility, not a love," he said. "Posterity will laugh at me if it thinks I was queer... little students will be disillusioned."

Kerouac, we say for all the little students: You don't know Jack!

Glad bag

Towards the beginning of **Dave DiMartino's** very long and very revealing interview with singer/songwriter/goddess **Joni Mitchell** in the current issue of London-based music magazine *Mojo*, he tells a tale of Joni that may seem trivial, but certainly contains the kernels of deeper meanings. The notoriously reclusive musician/poet has been showing up in public more frequently these days, in advance of the release of her 17th album, *Taming the Tiger*. During the taping of an intimate concert Joni gave recently in front of 200 invited guests in L.A., her beau-from-long-ago **Graham Nash** presented Joni with an item wrapped in a plastic bag, the trophy which marked her induction last year into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame: "The one she never got because she never showed up to claim it," writes DiMartino. "You had your reasons," Nash says diplomatically, "but I'm sure they're all fine." Looking at Nash — bemusedly or begrudgingly, it's hard to tell — she grasps the object in its sloppy wrapper and deadpans: "It's perfect in a garbage bag."

Joni is nothing if not outspoken, acknowledging, despite her high regard for **Bob Dylan**: "I was a detractor in the beginning. I

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Jack Kerouac in the '60s,
demonstrating how to give head.

ouac's last editor, basically makes the case that Jack was a self-loathing homosexual whose internalized homophobia led to the alcoholism which killed him. The book points out what a non-trivial part having sex with men played in Kerouac's life. We learn all kinds of juicy details, such as that he enjoyed wrestling the boys at school wearing nothing but a jockstrap. Amburn compellingly describes the homoerotic horseplay among Jack's football gang as a festival of testicle-grabbing and -squeezing. And then there is the scene (reported by whom? a passing pigeon?) as a gay man sits next to Kerouac on a bench in Riverside Park one day and cruises him: "How you hung?" the man in-

THEATRE

Back to Kentucky

by Deborah Peifer

For those of us lucky enough to remember *Twyla's Boy* at The Marsh in 1993, word that *Twyla's Story*, the second play in a proposed trilogy, was ready for production was welcome news indeed. In his original piece, playwright Charles Polly created an amazing pair of characters, Twyla and her son Ervin, who touched the heart and lingered in the memory. I spoke briefly with Polly about *Twyla's Story*, which he began writing as soon as the first production closed. Polly explains: "I looked at all the stories I had rejected for *Twyla's Boy*, and I saw I had lots more stories to tell, and I knew I wanted to tell them theatrically. The first writing I did was very autobiographical, but as time passed I decided to fictionalize the work more. The play is about family secrets, some of them generations old."

Polly is out to his family both as a gay man and as a person with HIV; his alter ego, Ervin, is already out when the play begins, so that clearly is not one of the secrets. In fact, Polly says, Ervin's being out is a source of some annoyance to the rest of the family. "One character says to Ervin, 'You tell your mama you're queer and she opens her arms to you.'" For Polly, the writing process this time out has included regular workshops with fellow members of Eastenders Repertory Company, a process that made the work go faster, but was not without the occasional creative difference. Polly laughs as he recalls "one of the actors came to me and insisted that 'Alta Mae wouldn't say this.'"

The piece is filled with what Polly describes as "faction" — touchy, scary stuff, but not all of it is about my family, not all of it happened to me." *Twyla's Story* is the tale of Ervin's return home to the Kentucky hills of his childhood, and his discovery that he is now a stranger in this still-familiar place. Part of Polly's work on the play included letting go of the character he played in *Twyla's Boy*. He realized it was time for him to focus on the writing and let another actor — in this case, Craig Dickerson — inspire the role. In his focus on the writing, Polly "fell in love with language. It was a prize for loving who I am."

Suzan Kendall reprises Twyla, the role she originated, in the new production, but she doesn't see this as coming back to Twyla, because "I never really left her. I've traveled to Kentucky three times and met [Polly's] mom and some of the family. And, of course, we've been working on the script all this time. This play is a different experience — the first was more of a memory play, it was all about subtext — but in this play, Twyla interacts more with other characters. We see the complexity of her family and all of their relationships. Finding Twyla in her own world is a real challenge, but it's also comfortable, because she's part of me."

Kendall also relishes working with a company of actors on this play. "Being with a company is wonderful. It means having developed a relationship with people who like and trust each other. It also means that we all pitch in to



Alta Mae (Cambren Williamson, left) keeps a family photo just out of the reach of her mother-in-law, Twyla (Suzan Kendall) in *Twyla's Story*, the second in the "Twyla Trilogy" by Bay Area playwright Charles Polly.

do all the jobs that need to be done to get a show up." Kendall also admires the fact that the company "is passionate about the work. We are all so invested in it. It's happened quite naturally that we've come to this place to do this work. For me, this has been the most profound experience of my life. It's changed my life forever." *Twyla's Story* runs August 23 through September

6 at the Magic Theatre, Fort Mason, Building D. Call (510) 482-5054 for tickets.

On the fly

Francesca Fanti returns to The Marsh in Dario Fo and Franca Rame's *Orgasmo Adulto — Escapes from the Zoo*, a series of comic monologues on abortion, child care, and revenge, August 28 through September 20. The Marsh is located at 1062 Valencia near 22nd. Call 826-5750. Also at The Marsh this fall are classes in playwriting and creating and performing solo work. Call 648-6782 for details.

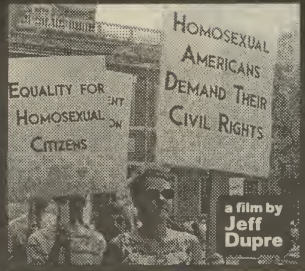
Students at A.C.T.'s Young Conservatory program don't just work on classic plays. The program regularly commissions plays for its young actors. This year's play is Daisy Foote's *When They Speak of Rita*, an exploration of family, identity and sexuality. The show runs August 21-23 at Hastings Studio Theatre, 30 Grant Avenue. Tickets are free, but seating is limited, so reservations are a must. Call 439-2444.



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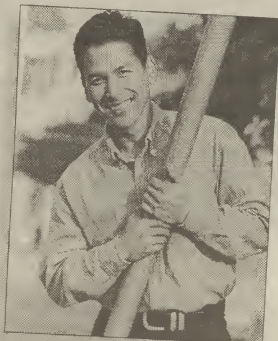
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Quentin Crisp at Theatre Rhino Crisper than ever

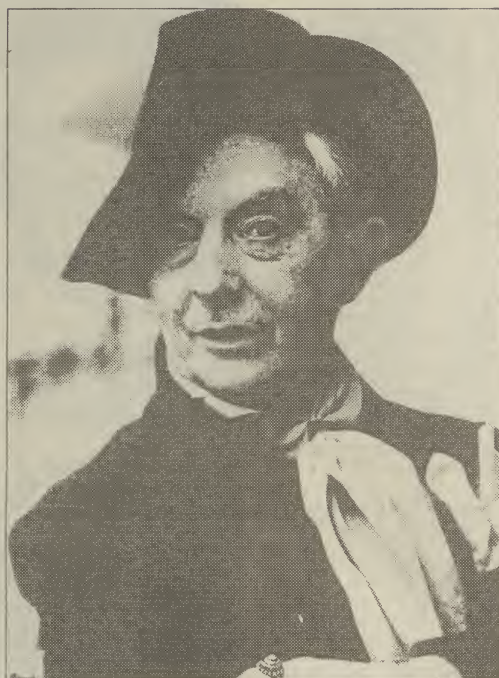
by Richard Dodds

When I first saw Quentin Crisp on stage 15 years ago, he seemed physically frail but mentally sharp. During his recent run at Theatre Rhino, the 89-year-old Crisp seemed both frailer and sharper. True, he must sometimes search for a wayward word, but if anything, his delivery is keener, his stories funnier and, during a Q&A session, his responses more from the heart.

Crisp was already in his 60s when his modestly selling autobiography, *The Naked Civil Servant*, was filmed for British television, providing him a late-life celebrity that continues to fuel him. While the importance of developing a personal style remains the underlying theme of his talk, he hangs on this frame a variety of different anecdotes, observations and epigrams that range from household chores (don't do them) to existentialism (the only possible exercise of free will is swimming with the tide, only faster).

Developing a style, he tells us, will help create self-imposed chains that are important in this time of immense personal freedom. "People are not rejoicing," he says, "they're protesting." Those with style, he points out, include Mohammed Ali, Eva Peron, and Sarah Bernhardt. His recreation of Bernhardt's death scene from a silent film version of *Camille* is hilariously sublime.

After an intermission, Crisp returned to answer questions submitted by the audience. There were the predictable questions about favorite movies (*The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*), television shows (*NYPD Blue* and *Homicide*), and people (Elizabeth Taylor). To a question about Monica Lewinsky, Crisp replied, "If someone had caught a



Quentin Crisp

glimpse of Queen Elizabeth I's sexual apparatus and then talked about, he would have been beheaded. None of these women are ever beheaded."

A cute question about what he planned for his "later years" was met with a straightforward reply about the appeal of death. And he strayed from PC dictums when, in response to a question about Trent Lott's kleptomaniac analogy, Crisp declared that "almost all homosexuals are sexual maniacs,"

and that this promiscuity is necessary because homosexual "sexual encounters are so unsatisfying." The room grew quiet at this, though one person applauded.

But Crisp warmed the crowd with his answer to a final question about "what would he like to come back as?" "We aren't talking about reincarnation, are we?" We are, said the questioner. "I don't believe in reincarnation. Imagine falling out of your mother's womb, sighing, 'Here again.'" ▼

Izzard of odd

by Richard Dodds

Some comics talk funny. Some look funny. Eddie Izzard mumbles funny.

He can be offering one of his astutely exaggerated observations about, say, dictators, empires, or chiropractors when a sentence may just shamble away. The lack of a ta-dum punch line has a way of letting the material seem even funnier by making it less stand-up and more lived in. Izzard comes across as a guy who is funny without really trying.

Izzard is being heralded as the Next Big Thing in comedy, and I'll go along with that. Well-known in his native England and medium-known in New York, Izzard is making his first foray to the West Coast (with the help of fan Robin Williams), where the opening-night audience at the Cable Car Theatre practically peed in its Joe Boxer shorts (the corporate sponsor).

The affable 36-year-old performer has credited Monty Python as an inspiration, and there are certainly elements of the troupe's intellectually inspired silliness in Izzard's material. A riff on religion may take an absurdist turn ("I poked a badger with a spoon," he says, trying to come up



Eddie Izzard

with a better example of an "original sin"), but at its heart is an informed, opinionated mind. He can get laughs talking about the mass murders of Pol Pot by shining a new light on how we react to such tragedies, but it doesn't trivialize the subject.

Izzard's style isn't quite stand-up comedy, nor is it really theater.

While the show wears the same name, *Dress to Kill*, as his recent New York stint, the material only occasionally is recognizable from earlier reviews. Bits about Englebert Humperdinck, the Easter Bunny, and the lyrics to "The 12 Days of Christmas" must now be counted as golden oldies in Izzard's evolving repertoire.

The two-hour-plus performance often has an air of spontaneity. "I don't know where that scene is going, so fuck it," he said at one point, derailing a train of thought after a few moments. There are also different flavors to the first and second acts, with the first often mining world history for its humor, and the second emerging as a goofy potpourri that can sometimes drag.

Speaking of drag... Izzard calls himself a straight transvestite, though his duds (Chinese top, vinyl slacks and wedgies) are Tranny Lite. After about 30 seconds, the clothes, the makeup, and the man become one, and we just see a very funny guy on stage in mascara who mumbles. ▼

Eddie Izzard in *Dress to Kill* will be at the Cable Car Theatre through Sept. 6. Tickets (open seating) are \$40. Call 433-9500.

1980 cult classic 'Times Square' Girls together clinging

by Jenni Olson

Allan Moyle's 1980 teenage girl rock 'n' roll adventure *Times Square* developed status as a lesbian cult film with showings at lesbian and gay film festivals in New York and San Francisco in the early- and mid-'80s. Long-standing rumors about lesbian content removed from *Times Square* have provided ample fodder for lesbian readings of the teen girl buddy movie. Indeed, a look at Jacob Brackman's original unpublished script reveals many erotically-charged scenes between the protagonists, Nicky (Robin Johnson) and Pammy (Trini Alvarado). Some of these scenes were removed from the script prior to shooting, some of them were shot and then excised from the final cut of the film. A fragment of one such excised scene appears in the film's preview trailer—it is a one-second, barely perceivable clip of Nicky and Pammy playing together in the river.

The basic plot of the film is conveyed in its publicity blurb: "In the heart of Times Square, a poor girl becomes famous, a rich girl becomes courageous, and both become friends." Pammy is the quiet and sheltered daughter of a prominent politician, Nicky is a streetwise troublemaker. Admitted to a hospital for the same psychiatric tests, the girls share a room and get to know each other. They escape from the hospital, create a home for themselves in a dockside warehouse, and live together against the gritty urban backdrop of Times Square. There's tons of romantic tension between the girls, and, most importantly, they love each other and they're not interested in boys. As their friendship begins, Pammy's first feelings for Nicky are expressed in a poem she writes in her journal (which Nicky steals): "Your ribs are my ladder Nicky, I'm so amazed, I'm so amazed." Pammy later recites T.S. Eliot to Nicky and proclaims to her, "Everything you do or you say is poetry. At least I think so."

Early in the film, Nicky gets Pammy a job as an erotic dancer. "I'm brave, but you're pretty. I'm a freak of fuckin' nature," she tells Pammy as Pammy prepares to go onstage at the Cleo Club. Nicky, looking as butch as ever, positions



Trini Alvarado and Robin Johnson in *Times Square*

herself at the front edge of the stage to watch, and Pammy focuses on Nicky as she begins to dance (in the original script, she dances topless). In a later scene at the Cleo Club, Pammy watches Nicky perform her song "Damn Dog" (a poem Nicky had first read to Pammy on bended knee: "I can lick your face, I can bite it too, my teeth got rabies, I'm gonna give 'em to you. I'm a damn dog.")

Erotic tension

While there's no explicit lesbian content in the film, the romantic tone of Nicky and Pammy's interactions is undeniable. The original script had several scenes that developed this aspect of their relationship, including a scene of their first meeting in the hospital, in which they have to undress in front of each other; two scenes where they take off their shirts and play together in their underwear in the river; a wrestling scene; a scene of the first night they sleep (sleep, not fuck) together; and a scene of Pammy dancing topless at the Cleo Club. Most of the scenes removed from the film involve erotic tension or physical contact between the girls.

Many rituals remain in the film, in complete form or as remnants of rituals excised from the original script. The film relies heavily on ritual and symbolic meaning, and in fact, contains an excess of overdetermined pieces

of dialogue, references, ideas, and objects that signify the girls' bonding together and rebellion against society. Of the ritualistic elements removed from the film, three are especially significant, as they convey the intensity of the bond between Pammy and Nicky. Early in the script, just after they escape from the hospital, they henna and cut each other's hair (with this scene removed, their hair inexplicably changes color and length in the second reel of the film). The girls also create a journal together, called the Doomsday Book, to write their poetry and songs in (the scene where Nicky burns the book at the end of the film is still intact, although all reference to the book itself has been removed). Also excised is a scene, again relatively early in the script, where Nicky "pulls up her shirt and pulls down her jeans a little to show Pamela a tiny P and an N, tattooed prison-style on her abdomen. I got a lot of dumb ideas. But at least I make 'em up myself," says Nicky.

Times Square is one of the most remarkable rock 'n' roll soundtrack movies ever made (artists include Patti Smith Group, Pretenders, Talking Heads, and Roxy Music), and the soundtrack often provides romantic commentary on the girls' developing relationship. "You Can't Hurry Love" accompanies their escape from the hospital, and when Johnny (Tim

Curry) the disc jockey learns that "you two sweethearts have a favorite song," he plays it for them. The song is dyke-rocker Suzi Quatro's "Rock Hard."

Renaissance women

In a letter to her father which Johnny reads over the radio, Pammy proclaims, "We are having our own Renaissance." Indeed, they create their own scavenged culture in their pastiche clothing, the decor of their squat on the pier, their poetry and music, and in their own unique brand of political activism. They decry the hypocrisy and prejudice of the establishment in a live radio performance of "Sleaze Sister Voodoo" in which they proclaim: "Spic, nigger, faggot, bum/Your daughter is one."

Patti Smith's darkly codependent dirge of obsessive love "Pissin' in a River" signals the beginning of the end for Pammy and Nicky. In the most heart-wrenching scene of the film, Nicky destroys their home, burns their journal, and throws herself into the river. She emerges sobbing, "What the fuck is wrong with me?" Distraught, she storms into Johnny's radio station, saying, "Put me on the radio, I got somethin' to say." When Johnny hesitates, she smashes the control booth window, shouting, "You fuckin' little straight!" She then calls out her song to Pammy on the air: "My heart/it's pumpin'/my foot/it's runnin'/my head/it's hurtin'/it's hurtin' me./... Pammy! I'm callin' you, Pammy!"

While Nicky's previous song to Pammy, "Damn Dog," had a sexy edge to it, this one is a desperate cry for help as she realizes that they must go their separate ways. Later, as Nicky prepares for her concert in Times Square, Pammy makes it clear that she loves her but says, "I can't be like you." Nicky then proclaims her love for Pammy to the adoring crowd of teenage girl fans: "She was the best friend I ever had."

Although the removal of so much material from the original script gives the film a fragmented feel and sometimes sloppy continuity, the bond between the girls is always clear, and always has some proto-lesbian resonance to it. As such, *Times Square* is a marvelous experience, not only for lesbian youth, but for any girl who's

ever had a crush on a girl, or who's wanted to see girls on film without boys in the middle. ▼

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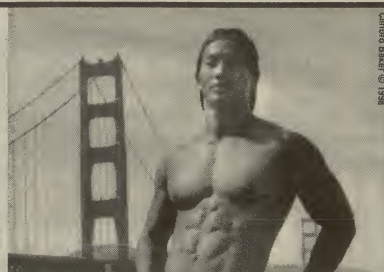
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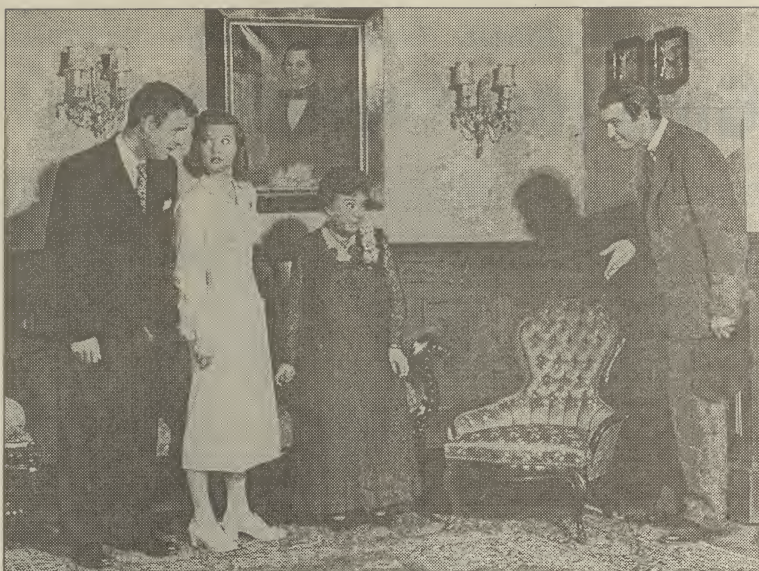


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William Powell and Carole Lombard in *My Man Godfrey*.Jimmy Stewart (right) introduces a six-foot invisible rabbit in *Harvey*.

Laugh riot

◀ Arts cover

not only dead, it's decomposing,"), and the characters are wonderfully noisy buffoons — from a self-entranced playboy (Rudy Vallee) to that staple of screwball, the madcap heiress (Mary Astor). Persistent reports that you can see McCrea's dick briefly in a scene where he's running around in boxers remain unconfirmed at this time. In *Sullivan's Travels*, Sturges stretches the definition of comedy so far that it snaps. Again he casts McCrea, this time in a strong portrayal of a millionaire movie director whose decision to find out what "real life" is like lands him on a brutal Southern chain gang. Veronica Lake adds sarcasm and glamour to the proceedings, but what's most impressive are the gritty scenes of imprisonment and class-based brutality. The laughs come hard and heavy in the first 20 minutes; the rest is a wrenching film noir.

Moving into later — and lighter — comic territory with the second bill (Saturday, August 22) are two Doris Day/Rock Hudson vehicles. Doris 'n' Rock were as much a comedy institution in the 1960s as Hope and Crosby in the 1940s, and about as credible a couple (perhaps less so, judging from the lurid clips in Mark Rapaport's recent documentary *Lavender Screen*). Ross Hunter teamed them first in 1959's *Pillow Talk*, and the film has all the elements typical of Hunter's slick,

middlebrow style — fancy decor, brassy colors, and a witty script that takes an attitude toward sex that's somehow both refreshingly modern and snickering. Films like this and the other one on the bill, *Lover Come Back* (1961), can't help but be viewed in light of what we know about Hudson, and attentive viewers will be rewarded with little frissons like Hudson's insinuations in *Pillow Talk* that a romantic rival is gay.

If Doris and Rock's clever comedies were also conventional, the Marx Brothers films were the opposite — *unconventional* to the point of insanity. Their best film, *Duck Soup* (1933), plays with *Monkey Business*, made two years earlier (Sunday, August 23). In *Duck Soup*, Groucho plays Rufus T. Firefly, who becomes dictator of Freedonia when the lovelorn, much-abused Mrs. Teasdale (Margaret Dumont) agrees to bankroll him. The brothers spend their time alternately praising, insulting, beguiling, and attacking everyone who crosses their path, and their antics eventually lead Freedonia into a war that the film captures using purposely ridiculous stock footage and tacky battle recreations. *Monkey Business*, based on a play by S. J. Perelman, is most famous for a wild sequence in a packed-to-the-rafters ocean-liner stateroom.

Sex pioneer

Mae West's clever, innovative self-love fests *I'm No Angel* and *She Done Him Wrong* (both 1933) are discussed elsewhere in this issue (Monday, August 24). Suffice it to say that with numbers like "Sister Honky Tonk" and lines like "It's not the men in your life that counts, it's the life in your men," it's no surprise that this unapologetic pioneer of sex and style was constantly in trouble with the censors.

Another '30s diva, Marlene Dietrich, enlivens a generic hybrid, the satirical comedy-musical-western and James Stewart vehicle *Destry Rides Again* (1939). The idea of taking this stylized star from the veils, nets, and mist of the von Sternberg epics to a dusty barroom in the Old West sounds at first like a bad joke, but Dietrich is witty, trashy, and surprisingly physical as saloon wench Frenchy. When she isn't brawling with Una Merkel, she's charming the grizzled cowpokes with "See What the Boys in the Back Room Will Have." Rounding out this bill (Tuesday, August 25) is *Harvey* (1950), still an intermittently

amusing ensemble piece with fine performances by James Stewart and an Academy Award-winning Josephine Hull as his slightly demented sister.

In a genre crowded with winners, Gregory La Cava's *My Man Godfrey* (1936) might just be the best screwball comedy ever. La Cava, who also directed *Stage Door*, was a unique talent. A close friend of W.C. Fields (who called him "the best comic mind in Hollywood"), he was the only major director of the 1930s contractually permitted to work without an advance script, creating a loose atmosphere on the set that yielded a fresh, spontaneous quality which predates (and to this viewer surpasses) the films of Robert Altman. This strategy works to marvelous effect in *My Man Godfrey*, where William Powell plays a "forgotten man" rescued from the city dump by a well-meaning but addled rich girl (Carole Lombard) to work as the family butler. La Cava brilliantly nails a variety of targets — the welfare state, starstruck romance, the frivolousness of the "plutocrats," aging matrons and their simpering male protégés — without depriving his characters of their humanity. Mischa Auer's gluttonous, curtain-climbing artist; Gail Patrick's dishy, spoiled sister; and Franklin Pangborn's gloriously queeny auctioneer add wonderful comic spice, but most of the show belongs to a dazzling Lombard and Powell (Wednesday, August 26).

La Cava's pal and drinking partner W.C. Fields closes the series (as he no doubt did many a bar) with *The Bank Dick* and *My Little Chickadee* (both 1940) (Thursday, August 27). He has to share the latter film with Mae West, making it a bit reminiscent of *Godzilla vs. Megalon*, but *The Bank Dick* is a true Fields-fest. Here, as Egbert Sousé, he's at the mercy of a trio of abusive female relatives and an evil queen banker (the ubiquitous Franklin Pangborn), but manages to survive through his familiar arsenal of card tricks, dizzying wordplay, inexplicable egotism, and a hefty amount of drink. *The Bank Dick*, besides being enormously funny in its own right, is also a tonic for the endless awful "comedies" that pour out of Hollywood today; like the rest of this worthy program, it's "universal" in the best sense. ▼

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Mae West

◀ Arts cover

claims to the contrary, she didn't "discover" Grant, but appearing with her gave his career a considerable boost. [Both movies play the Castro Theatre on Monday, August 24, as part of its "Universal Laughter" series.]

But the Hays Office, a recently formed censorship group that was part of 1934's Production Code, had taken notice. Although the censors conceived the Code before West's stardom, she became their most famous target and, eventually, most celebrated victim. However, she continued filling Paramount's coffers with vehicles like *Belle of the Nineties* (1934) and *Goin' to Town* (1935). In the latter, she sings Delilah's aria, "Mon couer s'ouvre a ta voix" from Saint-Saens' *Samson*

appointing pairing with W.C. Fields. [It plays the Castro on Thursday, August 27.]

She made the poor *The Heat's On* (1943) before touring in hugely successful stage revivals of *Lil* and *Catherine*. In 1950 she rejected Billy Wilder's offer of Norma Desmond in *Sunset Boulevard*, saying no one would believe her as a has-been. Proof of her assertion was her wildly popular nightclub act, with Mae surrounded by panting musclemen. She made a sensational appearance on the 1958 Oscar telecast, singing "Baby It's Cold Outside" with Rock Hudson, who could not control his enjoyment from sharing the stage with the 66-year-old femme fatale. Around that time she guested on Red Skelton's TV show and wrote her autobiography, *Goodness Had Nothing To Do With It*. (The title came from her first screen line, a response to a hat-

West kidded sex while making it natural, enjoyable, an end in itself — a revolutionary concept for a woman at that time.

and Delilah, a rendition that is memorable for many reasons.

She was now the highest paid woman in America, earning \$300,000 per film, including \$100,000 per screenplay. (She turned down MGM's offer to write stories for Jean Harlow.) Still, censorship difficulties loomed, plaguing *Klondike Annie* (1936). Set in San Francisco's Chinatown, Mae's first scene has her singing "I'm an Occidental Woman in an Oriental Mood for Love." Her Chinese lover (then a daring interracial relationship) calls her his "Pearl beyond price." Mae, eager to leave, replies, "Well, this pearl's about to be unstrung." Unjustly accused of murder, she flees to Alaska disguised as a Salvation Army worker. Hays Office interference spoils much of the film but couldn't control Mae's way with a line, even when she speaks Chinese to her maid.

Legendary pairing

She did two more movies for Paramount, which, fearing the Hays Office, decided not to film her play, *Catherine Was Great*. In 1940, Universal offered *My Little Chickadee*, her legendary but dis-

check girl's exclaiming, "Goodness, what beautiful diamonds!")

She starred in an episode of television's *Mr. Ed* (1964), looking taut, but as assured of her desirability as ever. In 1970, she unexpectedly played agent Leticia Van Allen in the dreadful film version of Gore Vidal's *Myra Breckinridge*. Her appearance created a sensation, eclipsing its nominal star, Raquel Welch, and gave her a new man to seduce, the young Tom Selleck. The movie, complained Vidal, "embalmed" West's nightclub act, but she relished the attention her return to films created.

Amazingly, in 1978, Mae, now 86, filmed *Sextette*, based on a play by Frances Hope that she had adapted in 1961. Leading men included her first co-star, George Raft, along with Tony Curtis, Walter Pidgeon, George Hamilton, Ringo Starr, and Timothy Dalton. This hallucinatory camp classic has Mae postponing her sixth honeymoon (with new husband Dalton) to save the world from nuclear disaster by sleeping with former amour Curtis. In it, she recycled many of her old lines ("Is that a gun in your pocket or are



W.C. Fields and Mae West in *My Little Chickadee*

you just glad to see me?" she asks Hamilton.)

Sextette would be her last work of any kind, and despite her unaware self-parody, West could not diminish her legend or her importance in movies. She was not the first vamp, but she was the first to size men up in terms of

virility. (She looked at them the way Gable looked at women.) She kidded sex while making it natural, enjoyable, an end in itself — a revolutionary concept for a woman. She had the flamboyance of a good drag queen and relished it. Men suffered when she left them, but later felt lucky to have

loved her at all. Liberated before the term was invented, Mae never paid for her "wickedness," which was what most angered the censors. Indeed, her movies always ended with her being well-loved and wealthy. Or, as she put it, "There are no withholding taxes on the wages of sin." ▼

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Groove me, baby

Angela Bassett gets laid in Jamaica

by Robert Julian

Lounging around her Jamaica hotel suite, Stella, a bored, upper-middle-class divorcee, ponders her possible future with Winston, a hot young Jamaican stud half her age. While her best friend Delilah reclines nearby, Stella asks, "What would I do with a 20-year-old kid?"

"Fuck him!" Delilah replies without missing a beat.

Inquiring minds seeking to learn *How Stella Got Her Groove Back* have their answer.

Angela Bassett and Whoopi Goldberg bring considerable charisma and talent to this trifle, but their portrayals of Stella and Delilah are not enough to lift author Terry McMillan's two-hour romantic fantasy from its sudsy superficiality. Bassett's Stella is a high-powered San Francisco stockbroker who has no time for any life beyond her work and the care of her young son, Quincy. Delilah (Goldberg) insists that Stella join her in Jamaica for a quick vacation, and their trip results in a chance encounter with Winston (Taye Diggs). Stella and Winston's unexpected Jamaican romance eventually brings them both back to the United States for predictable encounters with Stella's friends and family.

Director Kevin Rodney Sullivan and cinematographer Jeffrey Jur conspire to create the most pristine, ideal universe imaginable — both in Jamaica and the United States. In this respect, and many others, *Stella* recalls the mindless romantic comedies that Hollywood churned out in large numbers in the early '60s, usually



Angela Bassett as Stella and Taye Diggs as Winston in *How Stella Got Her Groove Back*

starring Doris Day with perfect clothes, perfect hair, and perfect makeup. Casting black actors enlivens the proceedings somewhat, but not enough to hold the attention of anyone outside the target audience for this film: black females between the ages of 15 and 50. Will Stella marry Winston, or will their romance have a bitter-sweet ending with soft lighting and "you'll-always-be-in-my-heart" testimonials? This is the only question audience members may ponder.

The most impressive part of this film is the debut of handsome Taye Diggs as Winston, a physical perfect specimen who could turn the head of anyone, male or female. Diggs does a creditable job of portraying the young suitor, both in and out of clothes, and it's likely that his ebony skin and perfect white teeth will become increasingly familiar to filmgoers.

But when Whoopi Goldberg exits the proceedings in the middle of the film, *Stella* grinds almost to a standstill. Angela Bassett, whose face is beginning to bear an uncomfortable resemblance to a Ninja warrior, cannot be held responsible for her failure to enliven the proceedings. Before Winston, Stella was stressed out and unfulfilled. After Winston, she is alternately bitchy, petulant, moody, and depressed — and her personal grooming goes into retrograde. Just what kind of groove is that? Terry McMillan, building on the success of *Waiting to Exhale*, solidifies her niche market with this second novel and screenplay. But despite its bonhomie, will McMillan's faux political correctness play to the masses any better than Spike Lee's?

Local non-color

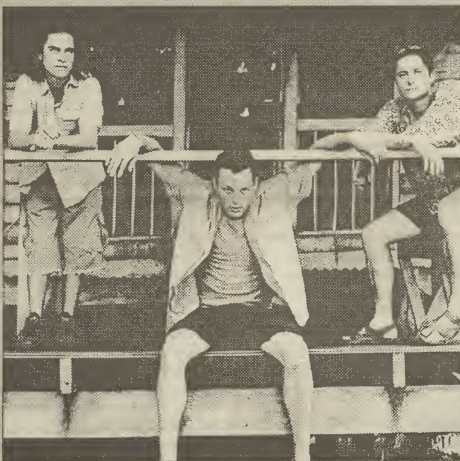
It is interesting to note at this

point in history that Hollywood is finally discovering the black middle-class and providing them with a product. These studio pictures have a few token whites sprinkled around the background for

non-color, frequently in subservient roles (like Stella's hired chauffeur). This reversal of cinematic fortune is a wonderfully ironic footnote to an otherwise puzzling phenomenon: Why would a black audience find this sort of pabulum worth patronizing? With an African-American culture rich in history and complex in structure, what is the value of films that are basically a race and gender variant of formulaic white comedies like *That Touch of Mink* or *Pretty Woman*? I suppose if mindless escapism were a deterrent to popular success, *The Cosby Show* would have ended after one season. Those who regularly watched black America's eminence grise for nine consecutive years will undoubtedly find *How Stella Got Her Groove Back* delightful. ▼

How Stella Got Her Groove Back is currently playing at theaters throughout the Bay Area.

Boys in paradise



Gotta love that Generation X, if it keeps spitting up new movie stars like (left to right) River's little brother Joaquin Phoenix, *Swingers* star Vince Vaughn, and David Conrad, seen here in a publicity photo for *Return to Paradise*, which is already being called the *Midnight Express* of the '90s. Poor Joaquin is busted for possession of hash in Malaysia and sentenced to death! Last week, the *New York Times* compared Phoenix and Vaughn to *Butch Cassidy* and the Sundance Kid-era Paul Newman and Robert Redford. In a cuddly close-up, Vince leans his head on Joaquin's shoulder. That's sweet. ▼

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Psychotica, Velvet Mafia, Pansy Division

Pansy mafia

by Gregg Shapiro

Because of the band's very visual front-man, Pat Briggs, Psychotica received a lot of media attention when they first burst onto the queer music scene. I never heard their debut disc, but I have to say that I didn't expect their latest album *Espina* (Zero Hour) to be both as accessible and as enjoyable as it is. First of all, I was quite surprised by the dance influence on songs such as "Ding Dong Dead." Not that I expect Psychotica to become darlings of the circuit party scene. It's just that it was something of an eye-opener to find that a band as glam as Psychotica had a genuine dance sensibility. That's not to say they can't rock out with the best of them. Just listen to "Bleeding," "Too Late," and "February 14th 1979," and you can hear their heavy metal heart beating. There are also unexpected treats, such as the instrumental "Psychopharmacologist," which was "adapted from a 14th century

bagpipe piece," and their over-the-top, yet loving cover of Jimmy Webb's "MacArthur Park," had me all but forgetting Donna Summer's version.

Also somewhat dependent on the visual aspects of their lead singer (Dean Johnson, formerly of Dean and The Weenies, who is well over six feet tall, has a shaved head, and dresses in drag), The Velvet Mafia has just released their long-awaited debut disc *We Know Where You Live* (Trip). The Velvet Mafia's lyrics are more openly gay and have terrific camp sensibility. For example, "Mona Lisa," with the repeated chorus "Mona Lisa is a drag queen," should give you a sense of what The Velvet Mafia does. With a pop-punk sound à la Pansy Division, The Velvet Mafia manage to keep things fairly light and slightly sexy on songs such as "Deli Boy," "The Jersey Gigolo," "Rock God," and "You Got It (Goin' On)." However, The Velvet Mafia are at their finest when performing their theme song, with a chorus that goes, "So pardon me while I go steppin' out to Fire Is-

land with David Geffen/ outa my way cause I'm goin' pallin' around the Riviera with Sandy Gallin/ here I go and I'm feelin' fine/ strollin' Madison Avenue with Calvin Klein." Is Dean Johnson the queercore Sondheim? You be the judge.

Absurd Pop Song Romance (Lookout) is Pansy Division's first studio album of new material since the amazing *Wish I'd Taken Pictures*. The evolution begun by the band on that album continues on *Absurd Pop Song Romance*.

It's unclear how much of this is the band's continued maturation as songwriters and performers, and how much is the input of a well-respected (albeit not that well-liked) producer such as Steve Albini. There were conflicting reports about what went on during the recording of Nirvana's *In Utero* (which Albini also produced), but Albini's reputation has long preceded him.

In any event, Pansy Division's trademark pop-py queercore songs sound great on *Absurd Pop Song Romance*. Could this album be the commercial breakthrough that Jon Ginoli, Chris Freeman, and the other members of Pansy Division have been waiting for? All the indicators seem to point towards yes. Unfortunately, you'll have to wait until September, since that's the official release date of the album.

In the meantime, allow me to assure you that the Pansy Division sound is fleshed out and aug-

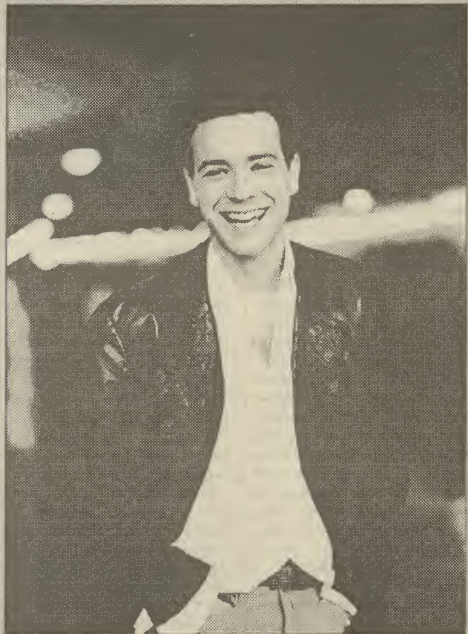


Pat Briggs and Ena Paul Kostabi of Psychotica



Pansy Division

The son also rises



Adam Cohen is the son of legendary singer/songwriter Leonard Cohen, but in his self-titled debut album on Columbia Records he stakes out his own musical territory. The twelve songs on the disc are dark and romantic, with Cohen's vocals foregrounded. "People have asked me if I ever considered changing my name, and I have thought about it," he says. "But it wouldn't be authentic, and anyway I am very proud to be my father's son." ▼

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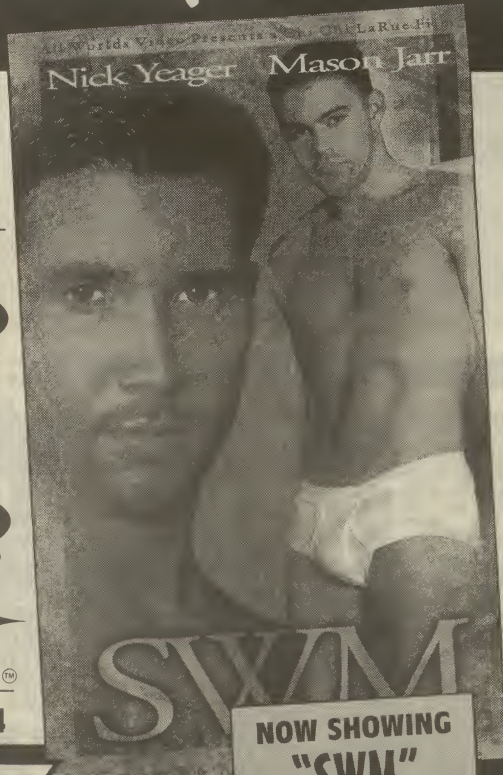
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Truth or consequences

by Victoria A. Brownworth

When we lived abroad, we queried why everyone vacationed in August. Italy virtually closes its borders, Israelis flee to Scandinavia, Scandinavians go to the Dead Sea, the English go anywhere but France, and so on. The reason now appears obvious — everyone is searching for decent TV (and other oxymorons).

The second wave — actually more of a rip tide — of off-season replacement shows washed in this week in advance of the fall tsunami. We recommend two new items. *Maximum Bob* fills in for *NYPD Blue*, on summer hiatus. A slick move by ABC, since the show's star, Beau Bridges, is a good cross between the current sex symbols on *Blue* — Dennis Franz (for those who like their men in ill-fitting short-sleeved shirts) and Rick Schroeder (for those who like their men bim-bette-ish). Thus the shock of Jimmy Smits' departure may be lessened. Or who knows, perhaps the show will finally give its token black actor, James McDaniel, a storyline. But we digress. Again.

Maximum Bob — like olives, anchovies, and felching — is an acquired taste. For those who enjoyed the brief but brilliant run of *American Gothic* and those still wistful for *Twin Peaks*, this show is for you. Penned by Elmore Leonard, he of *Glitz*, grid and guns, *Bob* is set in Florida, has a

cracker-jack cast and many outré bits to leave the serious viewer with that *Gothic* frisson. Bridges plays the title character, a judge in true Death-Belt mode. He's married to a clairvoyant who speaks through a young black slave girl. The debut featured an underwater banana trick, an alligator, a family of huge in-bred swamp folks with Buddy Holly glasses, and a surprising, positive, and very odd gay storyline.

Irony, dark humor, and great visual bits all add up to the TV equivalent of beach reading. Bob may not hold up against the fall line-up, but it sure beats anything else on the tube now.

NBC's animated offering, *Stressed Eric*, also deserves a peek. Set in London (a British production, the title character's been made American to appeal to dullards Stateside), it's a standard Brit-com with great animation. Eric's a harried single father of two (Claire, who has very bad food allergies, and Brian, a ten-year-old who doesn't actually speak, but likes to put things in his mouth) with a drunken slattern of a nanny, a self-absorbed New-Age ex-wife, a hideous job, and a truly repulsive family of perfect people next door. Amusing, visually appealing, lots of car-

toony slapstick, and veddy, veddy English. Not sure if the Yanks will get this show, but we liked it.

Heavy with liberals

We also liked the near free-for-all on *Politically Incorrect* the other night. The guest line-up frequently seems more a set-up, and this was no exception. This

show was heavy with liberals, however, as opposed to the usual neo-conservative dead weight. Host Bill Maher was joined by ever-queer-friendly comedienne Rita Rudner, grunge actress Lori Petty, liver-trans-

plantee and rock star David Crosby, and conservative icon Bob Knight.

For those queers just waking from a coma, Knight is to the ex-gay movement what L. Ron Hubbard is to Scientology. His *Dyanetics* dream turns pansies into Promisekeepers. Knight is progenitor of the new ad campaign "you-too-can-be-straight-if you-just-choose-Jesus." Or what the Religious Right calls "truth with love."

Maher announced right off that since there were no queers ("that I know of") among the guests, "I'll be the gay person" (a role we hear he's familiar with). Staunch neo-con Maher asked Knight how he could claim to turn gays straight and "Shouldn't conservatives be the least interested in other people's sex lives?"

Knight launched on his "truth with love" platform, which, not surprisingly, has very little of ei-

ther commodity. Rudner quipped, "But if you turn them straight, will they still like Broadway shows?" However, Crosby inadvertently issued the first salvo when he asked, "If you can turn gays straight, can you turn the President gay and save the country?"

The audience roared, but Knight, who like all self-respecting religious rightists has no sense of humor, rejoined, "We wouldn't want to see Barney Frank run the White House."

It got mean after that.

Crosby remains an old-time Sixties-style politico at heart — he took Knight on with a vengeance. Petty, Rudner and Maher added their own *bon mots*. Notable exchanges included Knight raging about AIDS and the threat the "gay lifestyle" poses. When Crosby noted that the majority of people with AIDS in the world were straight, Knight said "only in Africa," and added that AIDS was a result of "practices of the gay lifestyle," including "anal sex, which most straight people don't do." Petty, sitting next to Knight, turned in her chair and said, "Who says?"

When Rudner asked it there was a list of do's and don'ts she could follow ("I think I'm doing a lot of things I shouldn't do"), Knight suggested she read the Bible. "Jesus set the standard," he intoned. Petty responded, "Yeah but he hung out with 12 guys," and Crosby added, "Do you know he [Jesus] wasn't gay?"

For a moment, there was that kind of stillness that precedes something awful; Knight looked as if he might slug Crosby. Instead, he warned Crosby to be

careful and said, "You will come before him [Jesus] to be judged."

A strong show with a lot of attitude. Maher dealt the death blow when he fairly shrieked (well, he was playing the gay person) at Knight while pointing at him, "You are not a conservative. I am a conservative. Conservatives don't believe in getting the government involved in people's private lives. You, sir, are a radical."

You go, girl! Ah, we love it when the neo-cons eat their own.



Lavender Tube



Eartha Kitt

Finally, parody met parody last week when RuPaul and Star Jones appeared together on *The View*. Talk about a case of which twin has the Toni... Speaking of parody: Caught the Old Navy commercial with Eartha Kitt? We never realized she was Little Richard without the mustache — sort of like Michael and LaToya (only in the latter instance, she has the mustache). Regardless, this commercial is both very queer and very awful. Who does their campaign — Quentin Crisp? ▼

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Out on video

Blue movies

by Will Shank

Boogie Nights, written and directed by Paul Thomas Anderson; released by New Line Cinema

In an astonishing feature debut, Paul Thomas Anderson has recreated the underbelly of 1977 as effectively as *Armistead Maupin's Tales of the City* brought to life the up-side of the era. An ensemble cast led by Mark (ex-

Marky Mark) Wahlberg and Burt Reynolds brings the sleaziest side of the entertainment industry to life in a Nashville-like tableau of overlapping characters and their lives. The movie's only openly gay character, unfortunately, is the extremely unattractive hanger-on Scotty, played by Philip Seymour Hoffman. He is a fish out of water in the hetero porn scene, and his pathetic, unrequited crush on Marky is drawn, alas, in less-than-sympathetic terms. A late scene of fag-bashing also seems gratuitous and contrived. The entire final half, in fact, needs editing badly, sliding into a predictable, too-much-too-soon descent of the lead character, but the first half more than redeems the film. The bizarre imitation of a mother-and-child relationship formed by Julianne Moore as Amber and Heather Graham as Roller Girl is at the emotional heart of *Boogie Nights*: a desperate clinging together of characters on the fringe of the disco decade.

Afterglow, written and directed by Alan Rudolph; a Moonstone Entertainment presentation.

Many fans of Alan Rudolph, myself among them, are waiting for him to make a film to equal his 1984 masterpiece *Choose Me*, and *Afterglow* is not it. Two dysfunctional couples, one middle-aged and cynical, the other young and vapid, mix and match spouses in



Mark Wahlberg in *Boogie Nights*

Montreal. The plot is driven by the disinterest displayed by the bland, handsome Jeffrey (Jonny Lee Miller) toward sleeping with his bland, pretty, but one-dimensional ("I want a baby") wife, played by Lara Flynn Doyle. In spite of suggestions of Jeffrey's Older Woman fetish, Rudolph's screenplay never satisfactorily explains their antipathy. Several scenes with a gay co-worker, who comes "oot" (this is Canada) to him at a business lunch, also suggest a homosexual panic on the part of our hero, but who knows? The older couple is played by Nick Nolte as Lucky Mann, an aging fix-it guy who is supposed to be sexy but isn't, and the still-radiant Julie Christie, now 55. As Phyllis, a former B-movie star, Christie displays the sexy allure that made her career in the 1960s and 70s, and she leaves the rest of the cast in her shadow. Her fans can only hope that she is soon offered better material than *Afterglow*. ▼

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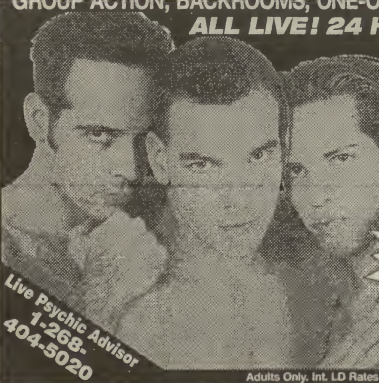
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TELEVISION

'In the Life' on PBS

Global warming: queer films from around the world

by Victoria A. Brownworth

PBS television's *In the Life* series often suffers from a level of over-earnest "we're-gay-but-we're-just-like-everybody-else"-ness that those not new to queer life can find a bit tedious. Nevertheless, the show's heart is in the right place; that no one can dispute. The latest episode, "Lights, Camera, Activism" presents the show at its absolute best, exciting for the Queer 101 set, as well as enticing for jaded queers like this reviewer. A definite VCR alert, particularly for the two shorts shown in

excellent graphically.

Beautiful, lush, and sexy all describe the winner, a black-and-white film called *Love and Dinner* by black Washington, D.C. filmmaker Sean Simmons. Simmons adapted a poem by Lewellyn Berry, making it into a tale of two women anticipating and enjoying love — and dinner. Narrated by D.C. poet Toni Assante Lightfoot, this film exemplifies how good black-and-white filmmaking with terrific lighting often supersedes color for depth and power; the film is gorgeous. The black women lovers are curvy and comely; the film really evokes love, desire, and appetite.

fascinates and really creeps one out.

This segment also previews *Some Ground to Stand On*, about Blue Lunden, a working-class lesbian activist from New Orleans. Lunden's life over 40-odd years gives a keen sense of how much things have changed for us and how much they have remained the same. Her father disowned Lunden when she revealed her lesbianism. But she breaks down while explaining how many times she was discriminated against as a lesbian in her life. Painful to watch, but when we see her embraced by younger lesbians and the lesbian community, it pro-

A scene from *Beauty Before Age*, by Johnny Symons, which looks at aging and appearances in gay male culture

their entirety at episode's end.

"Lights, Camera, Activism" is the third annual show on gay and lesbian films from around the globe. Focusing on how queer life is being addressed in film and video, the entire episode deconstructs changes in the depiction of queer life on the big screen in the U.S. and around the world. The opening segment explores the role of film festivals in promoting lesbian and gay films, and spotlights the world's largest and oldest gay and lesbian film festival, San Francisco's. Commentary from well-known locals like film archivist and former SF film fest coordinator Jenni Olson, and film critic B. Ruby Rich, as well as from various folks standing in line at the Castro on opening night, all delineate the impact of the festival over the years and how the festival has made the gay and lesbian film a genre in and of itself. The controversial inclusion of more mainstream films at the festival gets some exploration. This segment also spotlights the younger and more experimentally oriented New York Gay and Lesbian Film Festival.

The episode also presents the winner and first runner-up in the third annual *In the Life* short film and video contest, two films you don't want to miss. Runner-up *Good Night I Love You* is a terrific little animated documentary by San Francisco filmmaker Gordon Thomas. Thomas uses claymation, computer animation, and other techniques in his tale of a relationship between himself and his new lover. *Good Night* is poignant, arch, funny, and really

These two pieces are so good it makes one want to see what else was submitted for the *In the Life* contest.

International queers

The other segments present documentaries, international film, and a profile of Academy Award-winning lesbian documentarian Debra Chasnoff. The segment on Chasnoff is very interesting and will make folks want to see her film *It's Elementary*, about teaching queer issues in grade schools.

The episode's weakest segment is on international film, too short and encapsulated to really give one a sense of what's being done in places where addressing gay and lesbian themes in film is really a dangerous act. It includes a short interview with Indian/Canadian filmmaker Deepa Mehta, whose extraordinarily beautiful film *Fire* (rent it today) has been banned in India because of its depiction of lesbianism. Dorothy Thigpen, executive director of Third World Newsreel, explains how few queer-themed films come in from Third World countries. The segment frustrates by merely touching on a subject that deserves at least an hour in itself, but will still whet appetites.

Moving and provocative, the documentary segment concentrates on several documentaries and their approaches to issues in our community. These include *Beauty Before Age*, about gay men and youth worship (recognize yourself on the Castro, boys?). This uncompromising look at age apartheid among gay men both

vides an interesting counterpoint to the previous film.

The episode airs August 26 — nicely appropriate, as it is the 78th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, which granted women the right to vote. (11 p.m., Channel 9.)

Finally, for Net-heads, *In the Life* now has a forum on their website which includes nationwide listings as well as link access to public television stations and a community bulletin board. The address is <http://www.inthelife.org>. ▼

Blue Lunden, a working-class lesbian activist whose odyssey of personal transformation parallels lesbian women's changing roles over the past 40 years, is featured in the documentary *Some Ground to Stand On*.

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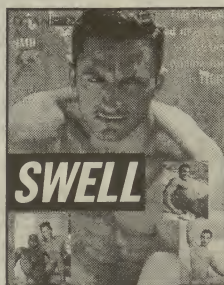
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Out There

◀ page 30

thought he was a **Woody Guthrie** copycat. I never liked copycats."

Get me *Mojo's* photo editor on the line: the piece includes many terrific photos, including a striking pic of Mitchell singing "Stormy Weather" alongside a demure-looking **Björk** with a plastic butterfly barrette in her hair, at the Walden Woods Benefit at the Wilmette Theater in LA.

Pictures at an exhibition

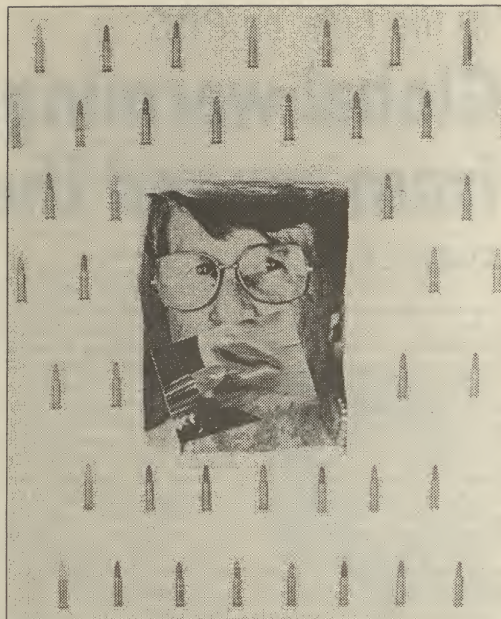
Trivial anecdote from our so-called life: We found a lipstick in our seat at the **Eddie Izzard** show at the Cable Car — an appropriate party favor, we thought, from seeing a man who apparently buys his mascara at the pump. The lipstick must have rolled out of some first-nighter's purse (we were second-night), but we found to our astonishment that it was exactly our shade — "Indolence."

That darling tube of pure color and grease reminds us of local artist **David Price Weldy's** painting "Dammit, Janet," now hanging as part of the *It Isn't Over* group exhibition sponsored by Visual Aid at Space 743 (743 Harrison, through Sept. 5). The painting (mixed media on canvas, 24 1/4 x 20) collages a photograph of stalwart Attorney General **Janet Reno** with a glamorous pair of lips, on a field of lipsticks cropped from a 60s *Seventeen* magazine. "They look like bullets," Weldy says of the "sticks." "It's like, 'Top Cop with Bullets.'"

New Yorker cartoon watch: p. 30, August 17 issue: **Popeye** and **Bluto** holding hands at a cocktail party, explaining: "Finally, we realized where all that anger was coming from."

Chapter and verse

Immortal rock icon **Patti Smith** opened her packed concert at the Fillmore last Saturday night with a paean to the guy who invented corrective lenses back in the 16th century. "Everybody thought he was crazy, but because of him, some of us can still read!" She promptly pulled a pair of wire-frame eyeglasses from the pocket of her jeans, unfolded some papers, and read a few pages



Dammit, Janet, by David Price Weldy

of her poetry. Patti Smith has been putting poetry in rock long before there was anything called "spoken word." Then, in front of a 4-man band, she launched into a spirited cover of the **Stones'** "Paint It Black."

During her long set, she brought us back to her landmark albums *Easter*, *Horses*, *Wave*, and *Radio Free Ethiopia*, as well as a totally committed version of **Neil Young's** "Rockin' in the Free World." Patti is ever the real thing. In asides to the audience she declared her fervid support for medicinal marijuana, while warning us of the evils of crack ("You lose your mind, and your heart.") She dedicated a song to "**Robert**" (**Mapplethorpe**), and invoked her late husband before putting across her power anthem, "People Have the Power." In a dispiriting era of corporatocracy and greedy capitalism which places profits before people, it's easy to feel disempowered. Patti Smith is the antidote, and that's not trivial. ▼



Patti Smith

Clueless mystery

by Deborah Peifer

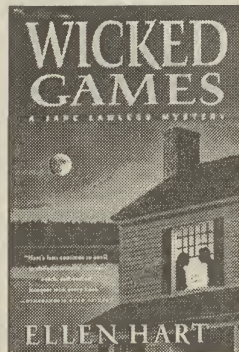
Wicked Games by Ellen Hart;
 St. Martin's, \$24.95

The news that Seal Press was dropping its fiction line was devastating to all of us who love good fiction, but it never occurred to me that one result might be that one of Seal's best mystery writers would move to another press and turn out so disappointing a novel. Alas, Ellen Hart's newest Jane Lawless mystery, *Wicked Games*, is an unworthy successor to a noble line. The plot strains credulity, the mystery is absolutely unbelievable.

Jane has rented her third-floor apartment to a man she's never met, without checking his references, and she lets him move in without signing a lease. Right. That happens all the time. The new tenant, who claims psychic skills when he tells the police about murder, just happens to be the brother of a new acquaintance of Jane's, who just happens to live on the same block. The

family, siblings plus parents, have had more than a few murders in their past, murders that appear to be suicides. After neighbor and tenant report that they are being followed by a mysterious stranger, said stranger presents himself to Jane, announces he is a (very inept) private detective, and asks her to spy on the family. Now I get cranky when an amateur sleuth has no believable reason to be detecting, but this is the most ridiculous ploy I've ever read. It gets worse, though, when Jane gets a letter from said detective, telling her he has lots of important information, which he does not share, even as he urges Jane to take everything she knows to the police if he should end up dead. Of course, the only reason for the detective to hold back the information is that Ellen Hart couldn't figure out a way to maintain suspense if Jane knew too much, too soon. She needn't have worried, however, because suspense is not a component of this novel.

Hart adds relationship angst of various kinds, none of which are resolved, or at all interesting,



Jane's own lover is causing her all kinds of anguish, a plotlet that is unresolved at book's end, but is clearly being held for the sequel. Cordelia, Jane's regular sidekick and best friend, is both annoying and unbelievable. *Wicked Games* reads like the draft before the first one when getting everything down on paper is all that matters, not making sense of the plots that are possible at this early stage. If you are one of those people who rushes to buy the latest Jane Lawless mystery, as I once was, put your credit card away. *Wicked Games* disappoints on every level. ▼

BOOKS

Cutting to the quick

by Dan Blue

An Arrow's Flight by Mark Merlis; St. Martin's Press, \$24.95

It's tough to be young. Unlike older people who have half their lives behind them, twenty-somethings bear the full weight of their future on their shoulders. In Mark Merlis' novel, *An Arrow's Flight*, youngsters want to get a life, but haven't a clue how to do it. Leucon, an office drudge, plugs

When a stranger arrives with big plans for his future, Pyrrhus is inclined to listen.

It seems that an oracle has declared that he will take over his father's army and lead the Greeks to victory over Troy. While this is great news for the Greeks, Pyrrhus has his doubts. Just because he's a whiz at S/M doesn't mean he's ready for war. Only when a tempter promises (with pointed reference to the go-go bar), "Your history need not dictate your future," does he make up his mind. "I'm ready to be somebody else,"

Mythic appeal

The Greek backdrop brings with it overtones of a more gay-positive society than the world we inhabit today. This scenario may not be historically accurate — and Merlis presents the straight Greeks as homophobic — but it's part of the myth, and part of the book's appeal. Merlis knows the queer sensibility down to its hidden roots and speaks with the impersonal yet intimate knowingness of a gay oracle. He doesn't just write a novel with gay characters. He seems to speak from the

years.

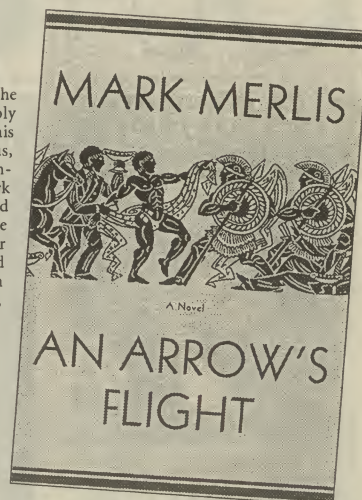
In some ways, the author probably identifies with his hero. Like Pyrrhus, who chafes at unwanted advice, Mark Merlis has fretted under burdensome expectations. Four years ago, he arrived on the scene with *American Studies*, one of the finest novels of the decade. It startled the critics, won several awards, and put Merlis in an awkward position. What would he do for an encore?

The need to match that earlier success probably rubbed raw — he speaks of "the second-novel blues" — and he has responded with a work different in almost every way from its predecessor. *American Studies* dealt exclusively with older men. *An Arrow's Flight* focuses on the young. *American Studies* was a traditional realistic novel. *Flight* not only takes place in a fantasy world, but is highly narrative: a succession of stories knit by deft plotting into a roller coaster of sudden shifts and action.

For all of their humor, both novels explore the darker sides of gay life, the fears and fantasies rarely recognized because no previous artist has held them up to view. Merlis is a ruthless

prober, a surgeon who can palpate organs we didn't know we had. Fantasies of eternal boyhood, nostalgia for unattainable beauty, internalized homophobia — these are secret places he cuts to so swiftly that the reader scarcely realizes he's been skewered. But the glimpse is shocking and difficult to forget. Merlis' book is a mirror which discloses to us all, not just the young, who finally we really are. ▼

Mark Merlis reads from *An Arrow's Flight* on Wednesday, August 26 at 7:30 p.m. at A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. Info: 431-0891.



Merlis knows the queer sensibility down to its hidden roots and speaks with the impersonal yet intimate knowingness of a gay oracle. He doesn't just write a novel with gay characters. He seems to speak from the heart of the gay experience, in a novel which never could have been written by straights.

on, sure that something will happen eventually even as the clock keeps ticking. "He had alighted in the city, found his dead-end job and his cheap apartment, found his way to the bars. Life was supposed to start now."

While Leucon tries to play by the rules, his roommate Pyrrhus is a hard-core slacker with an allergy to careers. Son to the mythic general, Achilles, Pyrrhus has already fled princedom in his homeland, only to find himself stuck in a rut of a different kind. Short of funds, he sells his semidivine body as a hustler and ends up dancing as a go-go boy in a bar. This may not be destiny, but it's a one-way ticket to a place he doesn't want to go.

he decides.

As his name indicates, Pyrrhus flounders toward destiny in an alternate world where the pre-AIDS seventies meets Homeric Greece. Draft-dodging Achilles watches football on TV. Odysseus longs to get back to his law practice. And on the home front, a man begs Aphrodite for erotic abandon and is rewarded with a sniff of poppers. Epic values are much invoked, but the gods and famous heroes are more like the celebrities people read about in newspapers, glamorous but incidental to the grind of everyday life: finding a roommate, getting laid, fending off complaints when the copier breaks down.

heart of the gay experience, in a novel which could never have been written by straights.

An Arrow's Flight, while not explicit, casts an erotic spell which makes every man seem appealing while it's being read. And Merlis has a wicked sense of humor which glories in repartee and the droll retelling of Greek myths. Readers won't have to know their classics to find these funny. He extracts the kernel which has kept them alive for three thousand

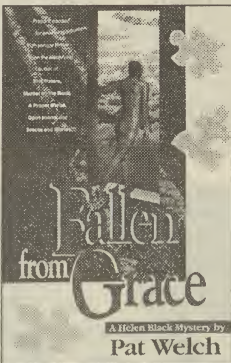
Nosing around

by Deborah Peifer

Fallen from Grace by Pat Welch; Naiad, \$11.95

Pat Welch's latest Helen Black mystery, the sixth in the line, turns on questions of the closet, and not just the big one, but closets of buried feelings, hidden emotions, of fear and mistrust. Fold into those layers a grossly immoral international sportswear company, and a CEO who thinks that laws are made for the little people, and the situation is ripe for some serious detecting.

Helen Black, dyke dick extraordinary, is in serious trouble. Her payables outnumber her receivables, she has way too much time on her hands, and her lover expects her to open up and express her feelings. Into the mix comes Tina Merrick, a woman whose drinking problem was not improved when her daughter, Leslie, took a header out of an eighth-story window. Tina doesn't want much — just proof that her daughter did not commit suicide — but is she interested in peace of mind or a healthy insurance settlement? Helen wishes she could care about motive, but the fact that Tina has a big checkbook means a great deal to Helen's empty wallet. The police have called the death a suicide after a slipshod investigation and won't consider reopening the case, so Helen figures she can do a little



nosing around and collect a healthy fee. If she's working, she can't possibly have time to share her feelings, right? The case turns out to mean a great deal more than mere money to Helen and her lover.

Welch creates some extraordinary characters, minor and major, and their coming to the truths of their own lives enriches the plot. I especially enjoyed the issues around Helen's first meeting with her new lover's parents, a circumstance with which I suspect most of us can relate. *Fallen from Grace* is a suspenseful novel filled with political intrigue, corporate greed, and homophobia disguised as friendship. The ending is shocking and absolutely believable, and will leave you longing for the next installment. ▼



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OUT & ABOUT

Calendar

by Mark Mardon



Connie Champagne

The Riot Act '98

Rock concerts for good causes are a tradition worldwide, but typically the objectives have been rainforest protection, feeding the hungry and housing the homeless, and stopping AIDS.

But for too many women in the Bay Area and around the globe, the issue that hits closest to home is domestic violence. Until quite recently in this nation's history, abused women could be counted on by their batterers to remain quiet and take any punishment meted out to them. Patriarchal society encouraged this passivity, and looked askance at women who dared to speak up.

All that has been changing thanks particularly to feminist organizations like W.O.M.E.N., Inc., a multicultural, San Francisco-based agency dedicated to breaking the cycle of violence against women. Each month, through advocacy and education, the nonprofit organization helps some 1,500 women end abuses directed against them and assists them in regaining control of their lives.

To raise funds for its efforts, while providing a full evening of entertainment in a queer-friendly safe space, W.O.M.E.N., Inc. is hosting The Riot Act '98, bringing together 11 bands in what promises to be one of the most exciting musical events of the year, a grassroots musical "femme phenom" featuring the brightest and most eclectic of Bay Area women's talent, including country, jazz, Americana, alternative rock, pop, and folk.

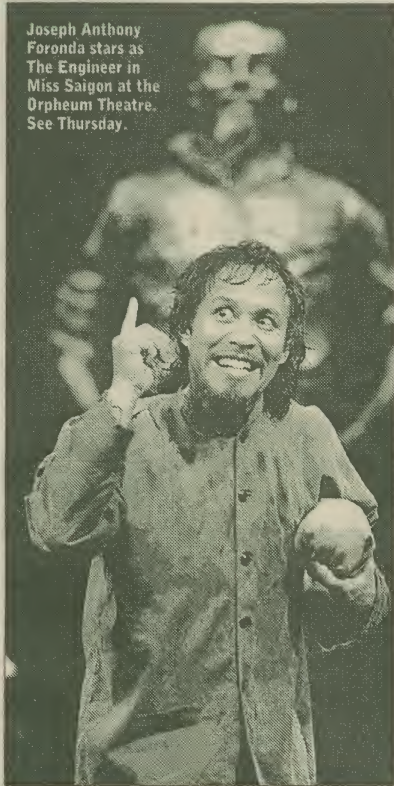
The list of performers scheduled to appear at the Paradise Lounge on Saturday, August 22, reads like a Who's Who of hot Bay Area bands.

Among the offerings in the five-hour musical extravaganza are rhythm-and-blues singer Nefertiti Jones, the high-energy Katharine Chase Band, and See Jane Run, led by impassioned vocalist Nicole Katler. Torch singer Connie Champagne will light up the stage with her searing voice, The Kuntry Kunts will set the audience to stomping and hooting in country fashion, and The Kirby Grips all-girl trio will belt out their brash pop/punk songs.

Dollhouse7 (formerly Soul Divine), Irish singer-songwriter Bern, Spanish-inspired rockers Castles in Spain, acoustic artists Frances 8, and Carrie Bradley's edgy alt-rock group 100 Watt Smile complete the lineup. ▼

The Riot Act '98, a benefit for W.O.M.E.N., Inc. takes place Saturday, August 22, at the Paradise Lounge, 308 11th St. (at Folsom). 8pm. \$8 cover.

Joseph Anthony Foronda stars as **The Engineer** in **Miss Saigon** at the Orpheum Theatre. See Thursday.



Joan Marcos

Eri

6th Annual Leather Extravaganza

Your chance to see the men of the 1999 Bare Chest Calendar, savor a VIP dinner, and enjoy first-class entertainment as chanteuse Pussy Tourette headlines this benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund. Northeast Drummer 1994 Joe Ricci sings the West Coast premier of the Leather Anthem; comedian T.J. Istvan plays for laughs; Robb Williams sings with Tom Shaw on piano; D.J. Johnny Hedges (Daddy's) spins dance tunes. Hosted by Leny Broberg and Miranda von Stockhausen. Produced by John Brown. 296 Liberty (at Church). Open to all. Dinner (6:30-8pm) is \$100, with a special takeaway gift courtesy of Rahide Leathers in New Jersey. Main event (8pm-midnight) is \$40. Tickets available at Daddy's, Mr. S Leather, Worn Out West, and the Powerhouse Bar.

Campout '98

Bring a tent (or rent a room if you must) and rough it during this campy weekend at the Russian River, highlighted by Pippi Lovestocking's PIP-STOCK '98 drag show, a sort of Wigstock West. Lycra Sheen and Rhoda Dendron host tonight's High Heel Kickoff (9-11pm). On Saturday evening, Pippi and her bevy of bodacious beauties from Trannyshack take over the Bunkhouse. Featured performers include Heklima, Lady Godiva, Kennedy, Putanesca, and Kimo, among others. Later that night at the Tweeze and Tease Ball, deejay Robbie D. gets people dancing dementedly around a bonfire. Recovery on Sunday takes place poolside with a Betty Ford Brunch. A charter bus

for the campout leaves the Castro Station Bar tonight at 7pm, and returns from Fifies on Sunday at 4pm. Roundtrip fare is \$35, including cocktails and admission to all events. Call to reserve seats: 863-8040. Tent spaces at Fifies range from \$20 to \$30. To reserve one, or to inquire about rooms, call Fifies at (707) 869-0656.

Blue Room Launch Party

London-based Blue Room rave-music label, renowned for its psychedelic-trance albums, opens its American branch in San Francisco with a mega-bash together with Japan's rave-oriented Zavtone Magazine, also launching its U.S. edition here. Wear futuristic raver duds and dance 10pm to 10am to performances by Germany's X-Dream, the UK's Sunkings, and a slew of other electronic wizards. Trip to astral projections, cosmic visual landscapes, intergalactic fashion shows, and future-technologies displays. Smart drinks at the Heart Bar, plus free water and fruit. \$13 advance; \$18 on party night. Tickets available only at Distractions (1552 Haight St.), Frequency 8 (1816 Haight St.), or Zavtone Magazine (351 9th St., 3rd Floor). Party location is a "multidimensional future space." Info: 1-888-682-7666.

Theater Artaud

The AFRO SOLO V series continues with several performance artists giving voice to the unique experience of being Black in the United States. Featuring Endris Cooper-Anifowoshe, Michael Sullivan, David Tigner, Elisa Joy White, and a tribute to Wayne Corbitt. \$12.50 and \$16.50 adults; \$5 youth (18 & under). 8pm. 450 Florida St. Box office: 621-7797.

Josie's Cabaret

Late Night at Josie's. David Mills and Bridget Schwartz host their weekly comedy talk show with musicians, actors, and other talents. \$10. 10pm.

Artful Circle Theatre

"Eve," a musical comedy based on the movie "All About Eve." Directed by Dana Peter Porras. From the creators of "Christmas with the Crawfords." \$20 (\$15 on Thursdays). Thru 9/27. Lorraine Hansberry Theatre, 620 Sutter St. Tickets: 474-8800; BASS; Tix Union Square.

SF Games

Friendly card and board games open to all players. Bring your favorite games. Free. Every Friday. 7pm to 10pm. Cafe Commons, 3161 Missions St. at Precita. 679-3678.

Kimo's Showroom

"En Drag" hostess Sexilya Luvsean runs her gaggle of female impersonators ragged in the course of three shows. First show at 9pm. \$10 (covers all three shows). 1351 Polk St. (at Pine). 885-4535.

Mad Magda's

David Bergman plays the African harp in the Magic Garden every Friday in August. \$5 donation. 7:30pm. Mad Magda's Russian Tea Room, 579 Hayes St. 864-7654.

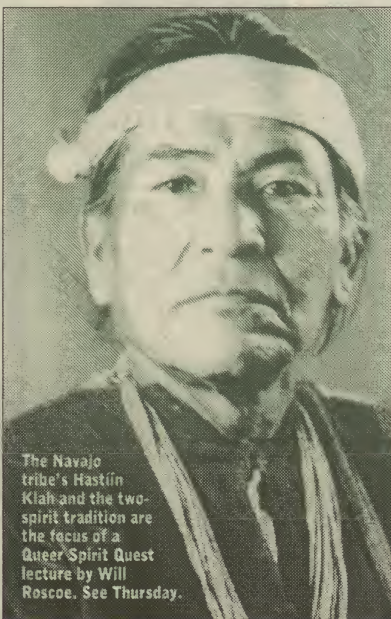
Footloose @ Venue 9

"Sitdotcom," an evening of hilarious, completely improvised sitcoms. Like TV, but funny. Starring many fabulous people. \$10. Thru 8/22. 8pm. 252 Ninth St. (at Folsom) 626-2169.

Sat

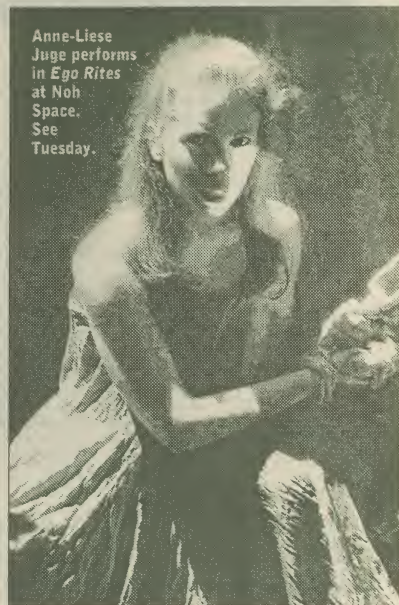
La Peña Cultural Center

La Lesbian @ La Peña performance series presents Sara Felder in "June Bride: Solo Theatre About a Traditional Jewish Lesbian Wedding." Will the parents of both brides attend? Will the brides both wear wedding gowns? A former member of the Pickle



The Navajo tribe's Hastiin Kiah and the two-spirit tradition are the focus of a **Queer Spirit Quest** lecture by Will Roscoe. See Thursday.

Anne-Liese Juge performs in **Ego Rites** at Noh Space. See Tuesday.



Family Circus, Felder juggles knives and attempts to escape from a straight jacket in this hilarious tale of family, tradition, and marriage in America. \$11 advance; \$13 door. 8pm. Thru 8/23. 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. Info: (510) 654-6346.

Yerba Buena Center

The AFRO SOLO V series presents its gala concert featuring jazz saxophonist Idris Ackamoor and quintet, gospel singer Alfreda Yvette Mitchell, blues/jazz vocalist Denise Perrier, and pianist Michael Dolman performing Negro Spirituals. 7pm reception; 8pm performance. \$12.50 & \$16.50 adults; \$5 youth (18 & under). The Forum at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission Street. 978-2787.

The Awdyssey

Awd's new studio space features three bands, Rhythm Baktism, Stymie, and Channel 23. \$12. 9pm. 285 Shipley (at 6th, a half block south of Folsom).

Legion of Honor

"Ancient Gold: The Wealth of the Thracians — Treasures from the Republic of Bulgaria." More than 200 gold and silver objects dating from 4000 B.C. to 400 B.C. Do- cent lecture at 11am. Thru 10/11. California Palace of the Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park. \$7 adults; \$5 seniors; \$4 youth. Hotline: 863-3330.

Kimo's Showroom

Miss Fortune hosts "Faux-girls," a revue of female impersonators. \$8 cover. 2 shows. Open mike drag show follows. \$8 cover. Doors open 9:30pm. 1351 Polk St. (at Pine). 885-4535.

Piaf's

John Erréca entertains diners with an evening of musical standards blended with international favorites sung in French, Spanish, and Italian. 10pm. Piaf's Restaurant and Cabaret, 1686 Market St. (at Gough) 864-3700.

Syn

Theater Artaud

The AFRO SOLO V series continues with several performance artists giving voice to the unique experience of being Black in the United States. Featuring Lynel Gardner, Donald Lacy, Venus Opal Reese, and Maxine Wyman. \$12.50 and \$16.50 adults; \$5 youth (18 & under). 3pm. 450 Florida St. Box office: 621-7797.

S. F. Lyric Chorus

Music Director Robert Gurney leads the chorus in Johannes Brahms' "A German Requiem," featuring soprano Vicky Van Dewark, bass David Tigner, organist Paul A. Jacobson, and percussionist Allen Biggs. \$12. 5pm. Trinity Episcopal Church, Bush and Gough streets. Info: 775-5111.

Lupann's Jazz

Enjoy cocktails and/or dinner to the accompaniment of steamy torch songs by Violents are Blue, with Kristin Fairfield. 7-10pm. Lupann's in the Castro Village, 4072 18th St. 552-6655.

Mon

Lunch with Dorothy Allison

A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books hosts lunch and conversation with the acclaimed author of *Bastard Out of Carolina* and *Cavedweller*. \$25. 12:30pm. Vivande's at Opera Plaza. Reservations required: 441-6670.

Hartford Street Zen Center

Meditation for Recovery — instruction, practice, and dis-

cussion. Every 2nd & 4th Monday of each month. No previous experience needed. 7:30-9pm. 57 Hartford St. (btwn 17th & 18th streets). Info: 863-2507. Surf: members.aol.com/hscz.

Noh Space

Theatre of Yugen and the San Francisco Butoh Festival present Mexican Butoh-dance artist Diego Pinon, one night only. \$8.50. 8pm. 2840 Mariposa Street at Project Artaud (btwn Florida & Alabama streets). Tix: 621-7978.

Tues 25

Noh Space

Theatre of Yugen presents three original performances by Kathy Randels and Anne-Liese Juge, "The End and Back Again, My Friend," "The Multiplicity of the Self," and "Ego Rites." \$10.50 general; \$8.50 students, seniors, and artists. 7:30 pm. 2840 Mariposa St. 621-0507.

iY. Q.U.E.I.

Young, Queer & Under Emergency presents "The Zoo," a place for all under-25 gay, bisexual, lesbian, and transgender Latinos/as to meet, make friends, share thoughts, and kick back. Free. Every Tuesday at 6:30pm. Proyecto ContraSIDA Por Vida (PCPV), 2973 16th St. (at Mission). 864-7278.

Josie's Cabaret

Gay Mexican singer/songwriter Jesús Guillén performs Spanish-language songs every Tuesday in August, including selections from his new album, "Jesús." With guest musicians. 8pm. 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Piaf's

Cabaret Singer Robb Williams performs music of the 1970s, accompanied by Tom Shaw on piano. No cover with dinner or drinks. 9pm. 1686 Market Street.

Wed 26

Red Vic Movie House

Jeff Dupre's award-winning documentary *Out of the Past* focuses on 17-year-old Kelli Peterson's attempt to form a Gay/Straight Alliance at her Salt Lake City, Utah high school in 1997. Her efforts were suppressed by her community, and the Utah State legislature went so far as to pass a law banning all extracurricular clubs in order to prevent queer clubs from convening. 65 min. Thru 9/1. 1727 Haight Street.

Berkeley Art Museum

Bring a picnic dinner and enjoy a free outdoor screening of Roger Corman's beatnik horror spoof, *A Bucket of Blood*, in the University of California's Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive Sculpture Garden. Prior to the film, avant-rock group Wet Gate creates music-and-image collages by "playing" film projectors. Screening at 9pm. 2625 Durant Ave. (a half block west of College Ave.). Also: PFA screens the amusing Herschell Gordon Lewis gore-fest, *Color Me Blood Red*, about a frustrated painter's search for a perfect crimson, in the museum's George Gund Theater. \$6. 7:30pm. This is the final night of the BAM/PFA "Go Van Gough: Artists in Cinema" series.

Yerba Buena Center

The Film Arts Foundation's True Stories series presents



Pippi Lovestocking hosts PIPSTOCK '98 during the weekend-long CAMPOUT '98 at the Russian River. See Friday.

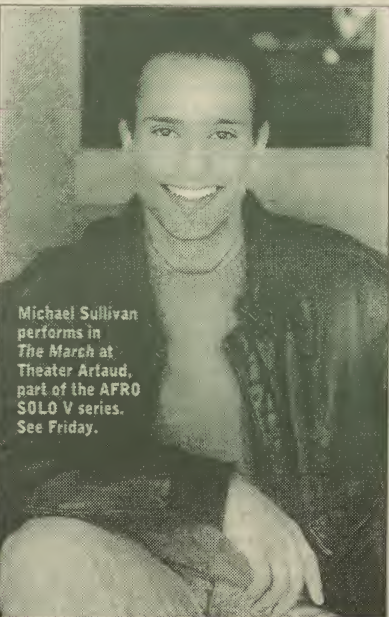
Roko and Adrian Belic's new documentary, *Genghis Blues*, which follows San Francisco bluesman Paul Pena's journey to the remote Republic of Tuva in the heart of Asia. There Pena refined his efforts at Tuvan throat-singing, a traditional style in which several tones are generated simultaneously from a single voice. \$6 members; \$7 general. 8pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. (at 3rd St.). 978-ARTS.

Mad Magda's

Matthew Worszlo's performs as Kielbasa, Queen of Poland. An evening of comedy and song, with accordion. \$5. 8pm. Each Wednesday in August. Mad Magda's Russian Tea Room, 579 Hayes St. 864-7654.

SF Gay Rap

The gay, bi, lesbian, transgender weekly gathering for discussions, poetry readings, card and board games, improv theatre, or whatever. Free. 7pm to 10pm. Harvey Milk Academy Auditorium, 4235 19th St. at Collingwood. 522-8700.



Michael Sullivan performs in *The March at Theater Artaud*, part of the AFRO SOLO V series. See Friday.

Thur 27

Queer Spirit Quest

Author Will Roscoe presents "The One Who Changes: Hastin Klah and the Navajo Two-Spirit Tradition," the first in a series of four slide-lectures on queer history and spirituality. \$7 suggested donation. 7:30pm. 50 Belcher St. (btwn. 14th & Duboce). Info: 563-7277.

EXIT Theatre

Adventurous palates will be titillated by unusual wines at the 1998 Fringe Benefit Party, hosted by the San Francisco Fringe Festival with the Wine Brats. Forget Merlots, Chardonnays, and other "ordinary" wines. Join next-generation wine enthusiasts in sipping exotic Viogniers, Pinotages, Sangioveses, and Sylvaners. Food provided by Osteria in Chianti. While sipping, enjoy samples of the Festival's cutting-edge performance. \$15. 7-10pm. 156 Eddy Street. Reservations: 673-3847.

Headlands Center for the Arts

Artist-in-residence Beth Custer presents *Vinculum* Symphony, combining virtuosic contemporary instrumentalists with the performers and inventors of nontraditional instruments. \$5 (\$3 students/seniors). 8pm. 944 Fort Barry, Golden Gate Nat'l Recreation Area. Info: 331-2887.

Orpheum Theatre

"Miss Saigon," the award-winning musical, premieres in S.F. with Joseph Anthony Foronda as The Engineer and Steve Pasquale as Chris, the young American G.I. A Cameron Mackintosh production. 8pm. Preview prices (thru 8/29): \$44.50-\$69.50 orchestra; \$69.50 loge/mezzanine; \$17-\$29.50 balcony. Tickets at BASS, The Wherehouse, Tower Records/Video, and Orpheum Box Office.

The Stud

"Drive," a queer electrofunk breakbeat dance club. Trip out and bounce off walls as deejays Kristo and Zanne spin out of control. Every Thursday, 10pm-2am. No cover. Queers and freaks of all genders welcome. 9th & Harrison.

DragStrip

Fudge Frottage hosts the club where gender bends over backwards, with DJ Sir Stephanie Phillips. \$3-\$5. Every Thurs. 9:30pm. 375 11th St. 331-9595. Ext. 300.

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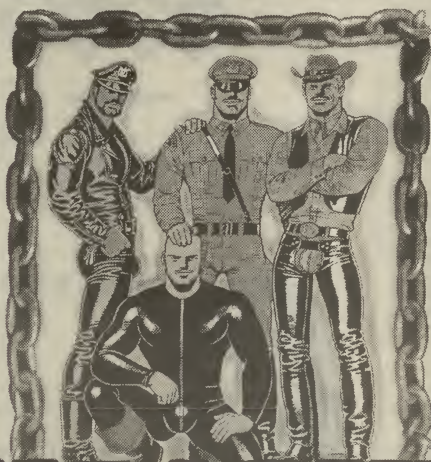
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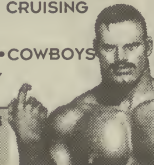
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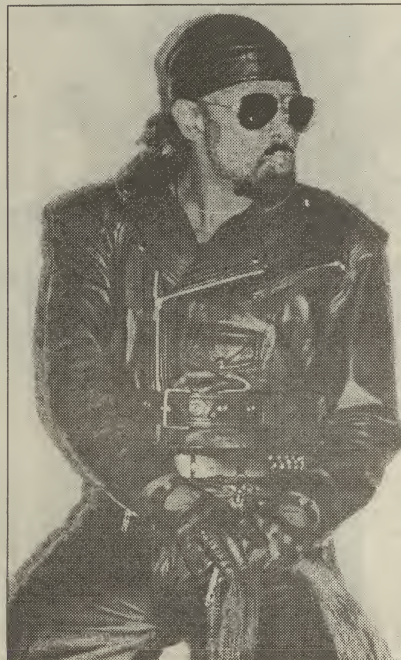
Leather Extravaganza

by Mister Marcus

For the past five years, the ubiquitous Philip Turner has staged Leather Extravaganza in a private home on 16th Street in San Francisco, all to raise funds for the AIDS Emergency Fund. Each of these events has been successful and raised thousands of dollars for that worthwhile agency, the favorite of leather people throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. No controversies, no financial scandals, just a bunch of hard-working, dedicated volunteers who believe in carrying on the tradition begun several years ago by dedicated leather men.

Tomorrow night, Friday, August 21, the 6th Annual Leather Extravaganza will take place at the residence of Don Gallup at 296 Liberty St. The \$100 VIP dinner begins at 1830 and goes until 2000; after that the \$40 ticket holders will converge on the premises for an evening that lasts until midnight. Former IML Lenny Broberg teams up with former Ms. SouthBay Leather Miranda von Stockhausen to emcee the event with entertainment, silent auction and other surprises. The headliner of the evening will be Pussy Tourette.

The West Coast premiere of the newly-commissioned Leather Anthem will be performed by Joe Ricci, former Mr. Northeast Drummer from New York. Later, Robb Williams will perform modern song stylings, accompanied by



Mister Marcus

IMSL '96 Jill Carter in drag-king drag at the 4th of July Gathering of Eagles II in Berwyn, PA. She won \$200 for her efforts.

Tom Shaw on piano. T.J. Istvan will tickle your funny bone, and the men of the 1999 Bare Chest Calendar will be on hand to assist in all areas. The legendary Johnny Hedges will handle the DJ duties in his own inimitable way.

Wines for the occasion have been donated by Zinfandels of Story Winery, and Rawhide Leathers has donated a special takeaway gift for the VIP ticket-holders.

And who is responsible for all this? John Brown, former Mr. Northern Drummer, is the producer, and the main coordinators assisting him include Bob Goldfarb, Daniel Sonnenfeld, Don Gallup, Joe Coloff, Steven Crouse and Will Clark. All but Goldfarb and Gallup are former leather title holders. It is absolutely fulfilling and wonderful to see that when the sashes went, their sense of brotherhood, caring and love remained. Of course, there are a lot more people to thank for their volunteerism, but the list is too long to mention here. Tickets are still available for this event at Daddy's, Powerhouse, Mr. S, and Worn Out West. Mr. Brown's goal is to raise over \$12,000 for the AEF, so I hope you'll all turn out to help his dream be realized.

Drummer update

It's confirmed: The International Mr. Drummer contest taking place on Saturday, September 26, will feature former Ms. San Francisco Queen Cougar and former Int'l Mr. Drummer Brian Dawson as the emcees. The regional contests are coming along nicely. This past weekend, Mr. Southern California Drummer was selected on Saturday night, August 15, at Probe. The new Mr. Southern California Drummer is Steve Pierce. At my deadline, no other results were available. Next weekend, Mr. Great Lakes Drummer will be selected in Columbus, Ohio, produced by Boy Toy Productions.

Here on the homefront, the Mr. Drummer committee is hard

at work already, and VIP and general admission tickets are moving along nicely. Do you have yours yet?

More ripoffs

There are still some very unscrupulous people out there, and why members of the leather community appear to be the main target of these parasites is a mystery no one can explain.

Just two weeks ago, former leather daddy Loren Berthelson received a call from a person in San Diego claiming to be former Leather Daddy Patrick Batt. The caller claimed to have been robbed, mugged, and in need of some \$500 to get back home! Five hundred bucks? That seemed suspicious; was he seeking a charter flight?

Loren's boy, Alex, took the call and was smart enough to call Patrick Batt at his home to check the veracity of the phone call. Yup! You got it. Patrick Batt was here, and has never even been to San Diego. Repeated phone calls from the person in San Diego were ignored — another rip-off scam averted by an astute young man.

This is not the first time this scam has been tried. I hate to admit it, but some people in leather nation have been burned out of hundreds of dollars by this scheme. Don't ever send any money to an anonymous caller.

Check around with local and/or out of town leather people to ascertain if what they are saying is true. It happens frequently, so stay alert. I usually have a line on what leather title holders are out of town or attending a leather event, so email me at HatchetQ@aol.com immediately if you get such a call. Clip this out and save it!

Oklahoma!

Ten years ago this coming October, the leather communities of Oklahoma got into leather pride by staging the first ever Mr. Oklahoma Leather contest. Produced by T.U.L.S.A. (Tulsa Uniform &



Bazaar

LEATHER SCENE

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, August 20

Constantines MC beer/soda bust at Daddy's, \$7, from 2000-2300, to benefit Sunday brunches in the HIV Ward at SF General Hospital.

Friday, August 21

Leather Extravaganza at 296 Liberty St. (See column for details.)

Free anonymous HIV testing (new oral test) at 933 Harrison (upstairs), beginning at 2200, sponsored by Blow Buddies and the AIDS Health Project.

Weekend, August 21-23

International Fantasy competition in Omaha, with a \$40 weekend package tariff. Reserve rooms at Radisson Redick: (402) 342-1500.

Saturday, August 22

The 15 Ass'n. Play party, \$10, BYOB. Call 673-0452 for invite and location. Guests must accompany you.

1998 Canoe Race up at the Russian River, with lots and lots of entertainment besides the race — all to benefit AEF, Sonoma County.

The Presidents and First Ladies of the Forum

member clubs stage a beer/soda bust at the Eagle from 2000-2300, with food and entertainment for \$7 by some of the "first ladies." Not all clubs have first ladies, don'tcha know?

Wednesday, August 26

Leather Buddies monthly play party, with doors open 2100-2300 only. Dress code strictly enforced. Boots & leather mandatory.

Friday, August 28

Mr. Alameda Co. Leather, Den Calkins, presents a skivvies white underwear party at the Turf Club, with Donna Sachet co-emceeing along with Frank Vasconcellos. A \$100 prize for wet underwear contest. \$5 cover if in underwear, otherwise \$8.

Saturday, August 29

Mr. Great Lakes Drummer contest in Columbus, Ohio all this weekend. Will bring you results as soon as I get them.

Sunday, August 30

Yet another "farewell" to Dowager Empress Jose (moving to Clear Lake now!) at Lupann's, with seatings at 1100 and 1300. For more info, call 864-6672 or 841-9898.

Leather Seekers Ass'n.), the winners of the title exploded onto the national leather scene within 5 years.

Craig Poos was the first Oklahoma leather man to end up in the top 10 at IML; the next year, Terry Gatewood was the 2nd runner-up to Jeff Tucker at IML. When Anne Bergstedt (now Spencer Bergstedt) resigned the IML title, Cindy Bookout of Oklahoma City became IML. In 1995 Paul Jacques was named Mr. Gulf Coast Drummer, and earlier that year, Larry Everett of Tulsa became IML 1995. Viola Johnson of Bixby was awarded the Leather Lifetime Achievement Award at the Pantheon of Leather Awards that same year.

In 1996, Jill Carter of Tulsa, became IML 1996. This distinguished record attests to the fact that leather is alive and well in Oklahoma — a state where no doubt a lot of your own leather once hoofed it across the plains and prairies.

So here we are at the 10th anniversary of Oklahoma Mr. Leather, and it takes place the weekend of October 23-25, hosted by the Silver Star Saloon. It is the state's largest leather event, and title holders and leather dignitaries from around the world will travel to the northeastern part of the state where the Arkansas River helped make it a financial and commercial center of a major oil-producing region.

The second largest city in the state, Tulsa, has a metropolitan area with a population of over 700,000. I'm honored to be asked to judge this contest, and Frank Nowicki will emcee the contest, plus lots of other surprises over the weekend.

Weekend package tickets are \$50/advance or \$70 after September 30. Rooms at the Tulsa Holiday Inn Select (918-622-7000) are only \$64 per night (for up to 4 people) if you mention Mr. Oklahoma Leather when reserving. After September 30, the block of rooms will be released, so don't wait! For more info, check out their website: www.tulsaleather.com, or call the club (918) 299-6866. You can write to PO Box 33076, Tulsa, OK 74153-1076 or email: LthrTulsa@aol.com. Don't miss this one!

Fun in the mud

Another fundraiser for the AEF is looming next month. You may recall that the mud wrestling fundraisers staged up at the RushRiv and here by Brother Duke of Club MUD were highly



Ms. SF Leather '93 Queen Cougar (and runner-up at IML that year) will co-emcee Int'l Mr. Drummer '98 along with IM Drummer Dawson on Saturday, September 26 in San Francisco.

successful. High-profile leather luminaries made the front page of this publication, and thousands of dollars were raised for the cause.

Well, it's coming up again — this time at the Eagle in San Francisco on Saturday, September 12. It's an all-encompassing event with prizes for virtually every subculture, with slots open for wrestlers and costume competition. A special mud-wrestling area will be in place, and judges are being selected already. Competition events include auto-tire scrambling, mud wrestling, wet tee-shirt, and tee-shirt ripping, so it should prove to be hilarious. Get on down and sign up now.

There will, of course, be a beer/soda bust, so stay tuned and get ready for a hot, fun event!

Catching up: Last week I reported that Sam Medrano of the Golden Gate Guards MC had won a silver medal in wrestling at the Gay Games in Amsterdam and was going on through Europe to celebrate. Last weekend he attended the Hamburg MSC big leather weekend where he was quite overwhelmed by some 2,000 leathermen enraptured with each other. Former emperor of SF, Jacques Michaels was seen in the milieu, getting his royal buns er, uh, "fluffed," shall we say. Sam is off to Berlin next. Stay tuned! ▼

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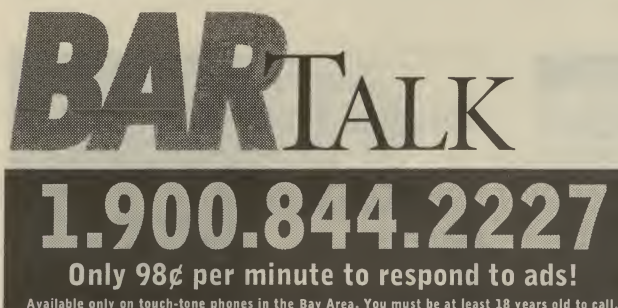
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You were going camping for the weekend. I was the longhaired guy in front of you. I'm not as bold as my friend, but I'd enjoy meeting again. ☎ 3201

Phil, dancing county western

With you was great! I wish we could do it again soon, but how to reach you? I hope your dance card isn't filled! Anthony. ☎ 3202

Steve of Noe Valley VIA TN VIA

UK parents. Gay Day at Badlands. We were attracted but unable to verbalize effectively. Now that we are sober, let's talk! ☎ 3203

Mike, Safeway Market St.

Hey Mike! You Carhart overalls dark hair and mustache. Me: Carhart trousers, mustache. We met back in mid May would still love to hear from you. B. ☎ 3204

Jason at Pride

Me: beard, dark green plaid shirt. Told you that the FPD shirt looked good on you. Got nervous and left when your friend returned. Would love to see you again without either of them. ☎ 3205

Mission/24th BART

Mark: Met on BART day of Pride Parade. Did not get your number. Very interested in meeting again. Paul. ☎ 3300

Michael 7/6 Appointment missed.

Crossed signals, thought you were someone else. We were the one. Try again? David. ☎ 3301

John from Pleasanton

We met early morning, July 4th, in Hayward. You were tired, I was cold. I would give anything to see your smile again. Please call me ☎ 3302

Chris of Glenn Park

U came to my basement mass rm for BJ early this year, return visit! Please call Jack. ☎ 3303

Rory

It's a rare chance when special people meet. It was great being with you. I'll always remember. When will I see you again? Troy. ☎ 3328

Kevin from Hong Kong

Met on N Judah 630. You: beautiful smile and very sweet. Me: tall, blond, and very interested. Want to have lunch? ☎ 3400

Sunday July 19 @ Baker beach

You were in a lawn chair, I lined up to throw the football. Your name is Will. Please call me. ☎ 3401

Don 7/02 @ the Powerhouse

We couldn't get a cab and I forgot to give you my number. Give me a call. Kevin. ☎ 3402

24 Divisadero Wed. Pm July 15

Sat afternoon you. Both of us are beard. I was wearing olive green suit. With I had time to give you my phone number. ☎ 3403

Mike-Architect, Sun 7/12 10am

Church ☎ L. M. You were going to swim. Me to church. You were reading a novel. I want to know how the plot thickens. Loved your smile. Call me - Bobby. ☎ 3404

Royal exchange Tue 7/14 12:30pm

You: brown and white shirt, with friend, waiting for booth. Me: brown leather jacket ☎ P hair, leaving with friend. We exchanged smiles more than once. You're so handsome! Let's connect! ☎ 3405

7/16 early am BART Civic ctr.

Me: you at 7 am in BART looking out at me. We've played twice @ Mack. Me: Kangal hat, short Latin, you: tall blonde goatee, you intrigue me. ☎ 3406

Teus/7/14approx10am little H'wood

Laundry. You: Dark skin, hair, glasses wearing blue Adidas pants & white T. shirt. Me: Blonde caucasian, glasses wearing T-shirts and jeans. Traded looks, waved goodbye. ☎ would have said hi. ☎ 3407

Muni underground 6pm 7/14

You: I've had head get on embarcadero, I was sitting next to you reading a book. You got off at Van Ness. Please call. ☎ 3500

Donatelo..

Where are you buddy? My butt is hungry for your dick & my dick for your test! The curious ☎ OFA. Meet me @ our rendezvous. ☎ 3501

Randy from Daly City Fri 7/18

Me: you at the 24 hr fitness on Post St. I asked your nationality (Chinese). Talked about your job (paint dept), writing, etc. Want to talk again. Please call. ☎ 3502

Marc from Marin-Blond hairy.

I met you at Cafe Flora ☎ we, meeting 7/19, I'd just come from the gym. Your number was wrong. Mistake? Rupe. ☎ 3503

I told you're a scorpion!

I told you I'm a Libra late, late, Sat night 8/1. You're 6'4", and too cute! wish I gave you my phone number. Let's talk again. Jeff. ☎ 3700

Joey @ Folsom Gulch Sun 7/19

You thought my name was Darell. Your sensual lips & piercing eyes won't let me forget our hot & sweaty hour. How bout encounter? ☎ 3504

Dore Alley fair

You: Green hat, white tank top, purple converse. Me: I told you, "You're the cutest man at the Fair". Would like to meet and compare. ☎ 3505

Asian w/furry legs @ Safeway 7/22

You: shorts, great legs, glasses, friendly. Me: I'll be wearing in jeans/white shirt, behind you at checkout @ 7:26pm. We smiled, you said bye, and left in black convertible. Let's talk more! ☎ 3506

Chris @ Pleasure dome 8/2

Me: Desert storm army hat, Levi's 58", no shirt, shakin my groove thang. I had the pleasure of introducing myself to you in the restroom I admired your physique. You said I have a hot ass. I think you are a God! I long to worship you, savoring every inch of your gorgeous Godlike hot, hot, body. Unfortunately you was with someone... My tight bubble butt gripping your big fat beautiful man-hole as it slides in-out of me = Heaven. If there is one thing you must do, it is play the phone and call my box #. I promise you won't regret it!! Thanks for the tasteless (Hot!!) I'm still drooling. More please... Clifford. ☎ 3555

Noe Valley Fri 7/31 4:30pm

You: Bk hair, slach, we have talked on the J. & passed each other on David St. Both looked back. Want to talk to you. 24th. ☎ 3600

1200 block Sacramento St. 8/1

Me: Red shirt, you: I don't not sure if you were interested. Pls call. ☎ 3601

Sat. 8/1, 24th and Church muni.

You: Bk hair, slach, we have talked on the J. & passed each other on David St. Both looked back. Want to talk to you. 24th. ☎ 3600

Fri 7/31 37 Corbett bus stop after 7pm

You: handsome GWM, brn hair, bln plaid shirt, white car. Me: GWM pln pkm & gym bag both very shy but found courage to smile while get together? ☎ 3603

Dog-17th St. and Eureka

Wandering about, no collar... No master... ☎ at August 15 noon. Be there! God call... ☎ Get lost... and a good home for you. ☎ 3604

Safeway Dk Blu cap-car w/rack

Blue shirt, clean, dark, asian-packer-like features. 7:27-6pm. Me: Bm, good suit. ☎ looking cap w/tall, white shirt, glasses. Incongruity that. Want to show you my ♀ you best. ☎ 3605

Casey in Golden Gate Park

Wednesday July 22 late afternoon. You: blonde, slim, smiling. Me: I've beard runner, accepted offer WOW! I turned away breathless... Let's date, cuddle. Call my box & leave ☎ 3610

One fucker to another

John, I really want to continue the conversation but I don't have your number. Pls call me in New York... Kevin. ☎ 3701

Chris @ detour sat 8/18 8pm

We talked while you played video movie trivia. I should of left with you. ☎orry, give me another chance and I promise no more questions. Pls. ☎ 3702

Pee's laurel mon 8/10 8:15am

You in khaki shorts, Nautica jacket, Caterpillar Boots ordered late. I asked about 2223. Good to see you. Glad we spoke. Let's talk... ☎ 3703

White cadillac eldorado

Alameda, 08/08 @ 5pm. Open Oak St/Santa Clara Ave. You gave thumbs up as you walked past my Cadillac. You tall, tan, beautiful smile. Like a drive and coffee? ☎ 3704

!!!!Henri @ the Eagle!!! 8/9

I lost your phone #. I swear! Pls call. I'd like to worship your lips some more, pls! Jim. ☎ 3705

harvey's place fri/8/ 9pm

You: Caucasian, dark hair, well trimmed, mustache, light-colored, flannel tank top with white t-shirt, we were friends & so was I. Several glances back and forth. Would like to talk with you Pls call. ☎ 3749

Att'n: All American boys

You: GWM, 18-28, attractive, lean, healthy, frisky! Me: GWM, 25, good looking, in-shape, athletic, frisky! US: hanging out, movies, good times, Lattes, sound fun! ☎ 3206

Hiv+ Latin

33yo, 6', 165#, dark hair, eyes, goatee. ISO a LTR that starts w/conversation not sex, UB Latin or white w/similar interests, age, h/wt. Call let's talk over coffee. ☎ 3207

Boy needs his Daddy-Master

GWM 30, 5'10", Lean, husky, brbr, HIV+, healthy. Looking for a relationship/powership with 35-45yo, safe, sane, daddy/master taller and more muscular than the boy is. This boy is part puppy and needs to be trained in a good home! ☎ 3219

Hot Romantic Spanish Soul...

Aged 30s seeks berian man for intense friendship or love, age 20s-40s. ☎ 3606

Wtd Healthy young married male

ISO 18-28, semi-retired, seeks a healthy married or single male for wily date. No recip. required. pref East Bay. ☎ 3306

ISO Eastern European male

Wanted: E. E. male 20-40ys, versatile, horny, with a good attitude who likes to laugh for dating and orgasms. Me: handsome Californian 40s, 5'9", 156lb, tight body, go do it kind of guy. ☎ 3209

Look no further

GLM 31, 5'10", 175lbs. In very good shape & handsome. ISO GWM similar guy who is looking for a good shape, goodlooking and very nice, pref. E. Bay for friendship or possible LTR. ☎ 3210

Take a "Walk in the clouds!"

Marin-Sonoma country guy. ☎ GWM, seeks city connections. Dating: good LTR. Very good-looking genuine, fun, communicative. You: ☎ GWM under 40yo, willing to get to know, good looking, adventurous. Me: 6', 170lbs. ☎ 3211

Mi Amor...

Searching for that special one... With big heart and penetrating eyes of sincerity. Me: 29yo 6' lovable Latino looking to share sunny Padres games and romantic dinners for two. ☎ 3212

Corporate by day Lthr by night..

Propose GWM, 40, 6', smart, financially/emotionally secure. ISO same, 40-55 who looks good in a suit as jeans, boots and a harness. Date first, LTR. ☎ 3213

E. Bay Master seeks slave

25-50ys, responsible, HW/1 proportionate, with obedient love and ass. ☎ single, computer-oriented only. Fucking, drinking ass eating cum, servicing nipples, 120s, masters, not sadistic, HIV-, 42yo, 170lb, brn/bl, mustache, goatee. ☎ 3214

Temporary boyfriend wanted...

Me: 34, 160#, 5'6", brbr, stache, nice bod, artist. You: mature, honest, passionate, sense of humor, likes the finer things in life. Handsome, exotic. ☎ 3215

New to SF

GWM, 6'2", 175#, young 40s, cute, clean cut, ISO a LTR. ISO similar guy who is lean, romantic and playful. Desire fun times & LTR. ☎ 3216

Brotha to Brotha

If you need a guy with a warm heart, sharp wit and big dick then I'm your man. If you have similar attributes, is healthy, and under 50 years old!! ☎ 3217

GM 24yrs 5'7" 128lbs...

Brown eyes/hair. European looking for G or B 19 to 40 yrs professional or student HIV- handsome with nice personality. ☎ 3218

Dark complexioned?

Intelligent blue eyed cutie 37 seeks Mediterranean like man (20s-40s) for passionate encounters. LTR/AT available. 6', 165lbs, endowed, HIV-. Nice smile. ☎ 3220

Friendship and more

I'm a GWM, 39yrs 5'11", 150lbs. Goodlooking in-shape. Looking for GWM close honest friends. 35-45, ex ok, but want more. Like outdoors-camping hiking. ☎ 3304

Loved to be fucked

On a regular, steady, relationship by Asian and Black men. ☎ I'd like your wet dick into my bottom and plow me a long time. You won't be disappointed. ☎ 3305

Attractive Latino

Goodlooking Latino 32yo dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel. Looking for Latino between 25-37yo for friendship of more. Just call. ☎ 3307

Father figure.

Older British gentleman, kindly former head teacher, accepts naughty persons for hand spanking & more. ☎ 3308

Strong body strong heart

Masculine, creative, good-natured, healthy Poz, HW/1 prop, gym-dedicated, GWM, 6', 185# 45, balding/buzz, N/5, ISO similar for dating and LTR. Tall and or lean A+. ☎ 3408

Make me fatter! Sensual bottom

Up to 50# fatter! GWM, 6'1", 250#, ex-jock look with big sensual gut and ecs. Weight lifting for definition. Exponentially healthy HIV+. Homeowner, bright, happy, romantic, more!! ☎ 3409

Seeking masculine top

WM, attrax. 45, 5'7", 151, good-shape, HIV-, seeks WM, balding, good-shape, masc top. You are a good person, established, and like outdoors. ☎ 3410

Seeking LTR bottom GWM

34yo top GWM friendly, good-looking, muscular, smooth body and romantic, seeks healthy GWM 36-45, sweet guy, honest, N/5, N/D, handsome. Let's get together. ☎ 3411

Free man wanted....

All races to age imaginative, happy. Me: same (50, w, HIV+) physical. ☎ 3208

Mature GWM seeking friendship

I treasure openness, warmth, romance, intimacy, and enjoy the outdoors, performing arts, classical music, conversation. 6', 160lbs, bl/bl. ☎ 3412

Hot Romantic Spanish Soul...

Aged 30s seeks berian man for intense friendship or love, age 20s-40s. ☎ 3606

Maximum mix

Me: Chocolate, 6', 45+, 190+, HIV-. You: Vanilla, 6', 45+, 190+, HIV-. ☎ uch a delicious mouth of ☎ undas we can make for a lifetime! ☎ 3413

ISO GBM/GLM partner 4 butterfly

GWM, 45, 6', 160, affectionate, NS, HIV-, beard/mustache, seeks friendly, emotionally available GBM/GLM, NS, to get off on (safe) butterfly, intimacy. Possible relationship. Facial hair A+. ☎ 3414

Want for friendly relation

81B/GWM seeks cute first boyfriend. You're an honest, patient, donor, who loves to laugh. I'm 5'10", 200#, 30yr, swimmer. Loves dancing, live music shows, movies, sports. ☎ 3415

HIV+ Eastbay Top wanted

HIV+ bottom, 36, 6', 185, blonde, brown, healthy, seeks top to smuggle with in Concord/Antioch area. LTR w/similar dark hair, brown eyes, smoker. ☎ 3416

Master ISO full-service slave

For BD, ☎ M, FF, boot training, toilet training, boot service. You: Intellectual, classical music under 35, less 5'10", slim. Me: call and info. Relationship oriented. ☎ 3417

Would you mine if I'm Asian?

Hawaiian Filipino 30's, 5'9" 148 HV+ versatile bottom smooth, affectionate & honest. ☎ eeking for a mas, top-man in shar or flesky body. For romance to nasty hot times, friendly, ass, relationship, interests: cuddling kissing & massages. A+ European, Middle Eastern, Latin & (Irishmen). ☎ 3507

FI/AM Handsome hot tight deep!

46yo bottom, 5'9", 160lbs, brbr, clean shaven, prof emp, ☎ 48 acting Dk free, I'm smoker. Insatiable bottom with LTR with tops B+ only, any race, East Bay, loves good smoke. ☎ 3508

Brown man seeks friends...

I'm 42, 170lbs, HIV+, 150#, into music, massage, gardening. On spiritual path. I live in a small cabin in the forest. Looking for loyal friends. ND, NS, and not looking for sex buddy. ☎ 3509

Harmony

Handsome, sexy GWM, 44, 6'1", 155#, with sharp mind, firm body and caring, sensitive soul seeking GWM with similar attributes for LTR. ☎ 3510

Young black ISO GWM

I'm 25 5'10" cute smooth firm slim sexy body. You are white collar, affluent classy sexy muscular body over 35 we both desire discreet sensual relationship. ☎ 3511

Boyfriend search

GLM, 41, 5'10", 190lbs, outgoing, humorous, athletic enjoys cultural and sporting events, seeks man for outdoor adventure and indoor LTR. Serious. ☎ 3512

Hot Rod Leo wanted

You are oral, clean shaven, big feet, top stud and lustful. Eager to show off your bulge to a sleek, smooth, cute asian and become his dream lover. Great sex! ☎ 3513

Growing intimacy, friends, sex...

GWM, 6'4", 195#, intelligent, HIV-, bearded, 46, into projects, creativity, adventure, collecting, camping, seeks loving, intelligent, responsible, healthy, tall, HW/1 proportionate, 25-40 year man for reciprocity. ☎ 3514

GWM seeking GBM

52, 6'1", 245, wants exotic looking trim to build, maintain mass for 35-45 for LTR. Needs to be open, communicative, spiritual, all that good stuff. Like gardening, mountains, dogs. Different interests expand horizons. Emotional maturity is nice. First step let's talk. ☎ 3515

AIDS widower

After 3 yrs I'm ready to seriously date again. Asian 37yo HIV-, no drugs/alcohol, lit smoker. ☎ eeking GWM under 50yo for finer things in life. ☎ 3516

Masculine muscular Asian

Clean-cut, 34, 5'9", 174#, seeks well-built 30-40yo for friendship, films, hanging out, and cozy times. ☎ 3517

Good looks N more

I'm Latino, 5'7", 165, husky, outgoing, good personality, witty, student. ☎ eeking attractive whites or latins over 25 for friendship or more. ☎ 3518

Handsome muscular Italian

Latino, 6'2", 185#, 38, into fitness, travel, romance, and quiet times. ☎ eeks another HIV-, extremely well-mannered man for monogamous relationship. ☎ 3519

Latin soulmate wanted, Por Favor

30 something, handsome, professional, BM, 6', 180lbs, st acting, clean-cut. Looking for Latino soulmate with similar qualities. I live in the East Bay, but will travel. ☎ 3520

HIV+ Bk male seeks partner

6', 220 seeks friends healthy mind body soul. Looking to LTR honestly no head games live outdoor camping cooking photography. You: Adventurous, 30-50 any race, travel, energetic. ☎ 3521

Attractive Latino

Goodlooking Latino 32yo dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel. Looking for GWM between 25-37yo for friendship or more. Just call. ☎ 3607

Handsome European 29, 6'

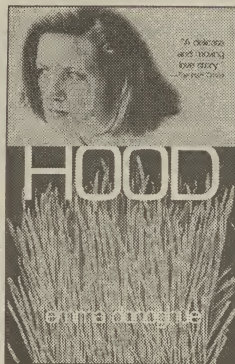
Secret widow

by Deborah Peifer

Hood by Emma Donoghue;
Alyson, \$11.95

Emma Donoghue is a writer of spell-binding skill, able to create a life in a sentence, a mood in a phrase, a feeling in a whisper. Her first novel, *Stir-Fry*, captured the absurdity of coming out, falling in love, and apartment-hunting with whimsy and heart. With *Kissing the Witch*, she took classic fairy tales and gave them a decidedly feminist twist. Her second novel, *Hood*, was published in the United States by a mainstream press in 1996, and went out of print moments later. Fortunately, Alyson Publications has created a new line, Alyson Classics, which rescues worthy queer writing from the remainder table, and rereleased *Hood*, a bone-wrenching novel of loss that just may change the way you think about life and death when you read it. I know it did just that for me.

Pen O'Grady is a Catholic elementary school teacher, deeply closeted (the novel is set in Ireland, and being out is not a possibility for Pen). She has been in love with Cara Wall since they were mates at the very school where Pen now teaches. Cara is an exotic free spirit, always dashing off to find herself or investigate some new political, spiritual or philosophical way of thinking. After 13 on and off years together, Pen and Cara now live together in a wing of Cara's family home, a home they share with Cara's father. Cara has been on a quest to the Greek Islands, and Pen eagerly awaits her return. That is, until Cara is killed in a stupid accident, and Pen is left with a widowhood that no one in her circle recognizes. As far as her colleagues and her family are concerned, the death of a flatmate is more inconvenience than anything else — sad, but not devastating. The few lesbians she knows are so offended by her closeted status that they have difficulty offering anything like sympathy. Pen is left to struggle through her loss, to rage, to wish the truth away. Worse than anything is the momentary forgetting of the loss, always followed by remembering. "Then I remembered, like a great hand closing



around my throat. How many times would I have to remember and make myself believe it, before remembering once and for all?"

Donoghue creates extraordinarily rich characters who live vibrantly on every page. She uses language with an artist's skill, creating moods and delineating character with poetic precision. On her way to the principal's office to beg days off for the funeral, Pen "removes the tiny black triangle from my lobe with shaky fingers. Not that the nuns would be contemporary enough to interpret it, even if I forgot, but if you were going to live in a closet you might as well make it draught-proof."

Later, Pen remembers her struggles with Catholic theology, especially the resurrection of the body — an impossibility, she was certain, until she "discovered the big O a few years later. Such rapture made me believe anything of the human body, even that it could rot away to nothing and then be revived in the playing-fields of heaven." Donoghue can capture a character with incredible precision, as when Pen sees Cara's father, "his face as private as a wardrobe."

Don't think that *Hood* is unrelenting sorrow, because it is not. As Pen remembers her life with Cara, we are given a chance to share the story of great passion and great friendship. There is much humor in this novel, much tenderness, much joy. Of course, the depth of those feelings makes the loss that much harder to bear, but I would not have missed meeting Pen and Cara. You'll be glad to meet them, too. ▼



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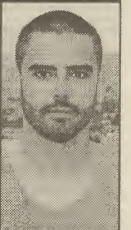
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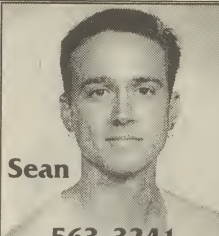
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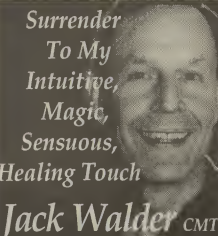
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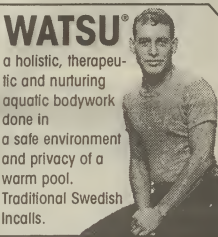
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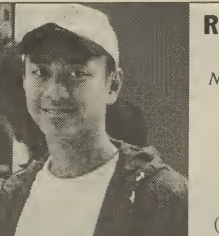
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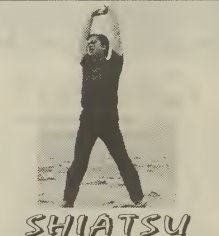
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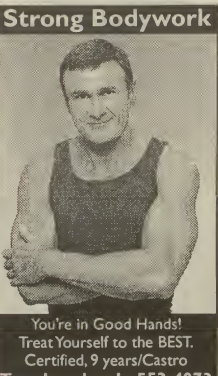
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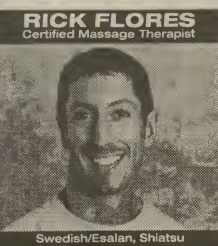
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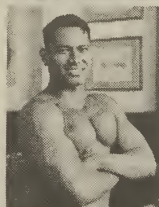
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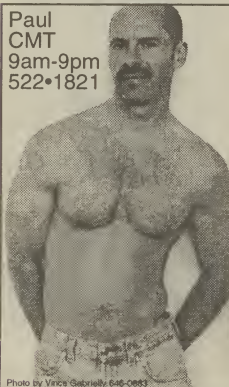


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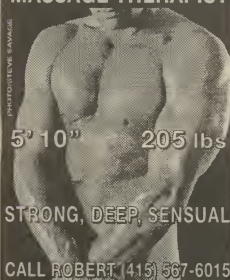
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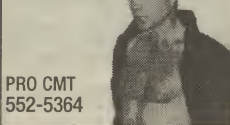
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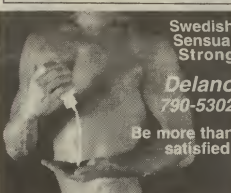


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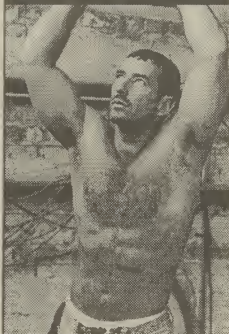
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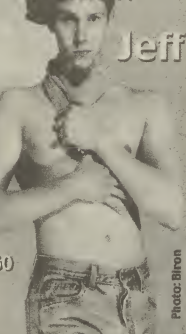
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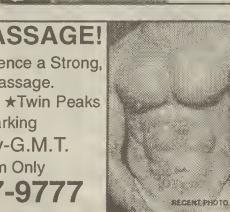


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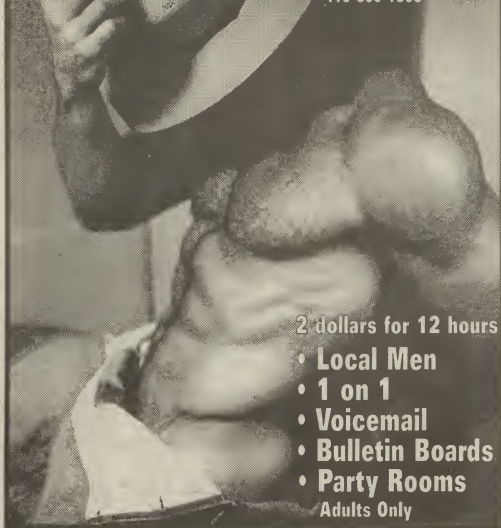
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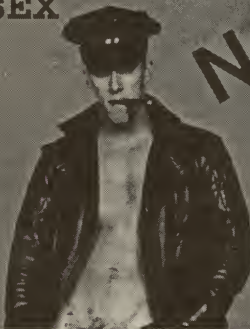
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ALL AMERICAN MALE
Masculine, Handsome, Hairy, Hung 6'4", 195#, Blond/Blue, Friendly Page Adam 24 Hours 207-8089

MIKE, 30, 5'10" 200#, Blk/Blu Clean-cut Muscle Hung In/Out-\$100(415) 863-8932

Goodlooking, 6'1", 165 Lbs **ASIAN TOP** \$80/\$100 • JIM 267-1817

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Looking for an escort that treats you right then I'm your guy. Friendly passionate regular guy 8XX thick. Very hard inches for your pleasure. Call David 902-3841

Tall, muscular, 185#, w/great pecs, Gd/kg, verbal, 9" cut. 764-6280. **MASCULINE**

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Horny stud. Open to all fantasies. Hung long & XXXthick. Sexy quality.

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SIZE 12 FEET-HOT-TOP
GD Lking Foot Top 39yo, 6'1", 195# Scott (415) 790-0902 In/Out calls

Young great staying power 792-2222 **VIETNAMESE STUD**

Kicks back for service*24 Hours **10X6" UNCUT**
Big fat tool 487-9566 Pgr 678-1005

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Very discrete and friendly, clean, slim, built with boyish looks and well-endowed. Out only.

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Huge one! Thick! No drugs 267-6968

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5'8", brown/brown, 140#. Smooth cleancut, call Chad at 241-9381

Ready to serve you long n'deep

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28yo, tall, lean, Gd/kg, 8" cut.

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BDSM, WS, VA, CBT. Filthy Experienced Top Kal 792-0266 pgr

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Solid muscular pecs, abs, & legs.

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8" Stud*Oral*J/O*346-4966*Ken \$60

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Exp. S&M, Torture, heavy or light.

I respect boundaries and I am a

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Well Hung, X-tra Goodlooks

TOP STUD

5'10" 175lbs of solid muscle

8X5 tool, sure to hit the spot.

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Humungous meat over 9"hard&thick

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LONG, SENSUAL SESSIONS
WITH A TOP WHO ENJOYS
TAKING HIS TIME. TALL &
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10X7 HARD INCHES
Gym Body, Versatile, 29 Years
Old, Dark Blonde, Blue, Friendly
And Clean In/Out Castro Location.
Loves To Top.
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"PLAYGIRLS" BEST
COLT MODEL
\$150
6'3", 200lbs, 8" cut
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ITALIAN-ASIAN MIX
22Yrs smooth, swimmer's build 5'7"
135lbs 8" uncult, cute and sexy
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Treat yourself to a wild, wild
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Ask me anything, very open-minded!
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In-shape guys. Handsome muscular
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shave included. Tony 487-1959

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Very Handsome, 6'3", 195#
Masculine, Buffed & Built Tuff
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Sexy, friendly, muscled top. I'm 29
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Hairy chest porn stud gives
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29yo 6ft 170lbs of a stunning
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Gorgeous, vivacious, loquacious
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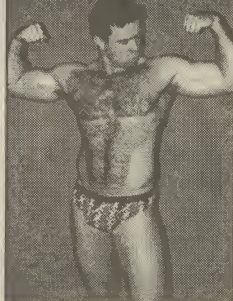
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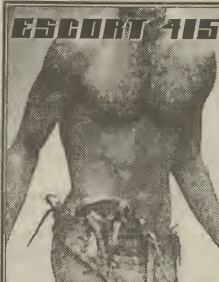
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5'8" 150lbs. Do you like having
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Open minded. Toys, gloves, etc....
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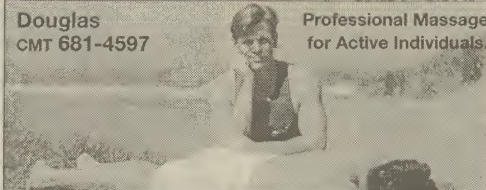
Black, smooth, built to perfection.
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6'2" 230lb Solid
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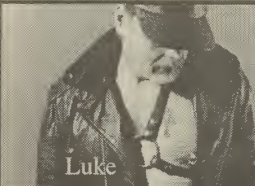
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5'8", 155, 8" Pgr 414-0132

8X6 Thick 'n' meaty. Horny
BRITISH UNCUT
Skateboarder. Blind/blu, 29, 6'1"
165# lean toned body, smooth
\$100+ Ed 219-8365 Vm/Pgr 24Hr.

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Master. 27y/o, 145#,
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Prolonged B/D-S/M scenes.

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Hot leather man with large hands.

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21yrs smooth, slim and fun. Open
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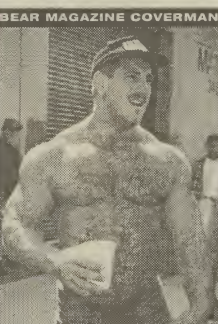
BIG MUSCULAR BOTTOM
Bodybuilder, 38, 6', 220lbs, broad
shoulders, massive chest big arms &
legs goodlooking military type. Dis-
creet, friendly, willing to please.
Out only SF

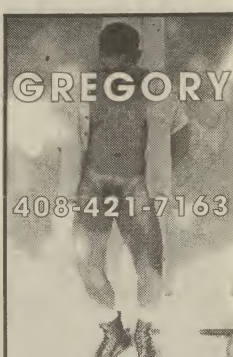
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Amazing top great tool huge load
Gorgeous ass versatile beautiful body
Passionate uninhibited and very
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Call me 207-6117 Pager

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Dominant Top, 32, FF/SM/BD/WS.
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Masculine
Hispanic 24yo
Jock. Handsome
Swimmers body
Hung for your pleasure.
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Attr friendly top, thick & well hung
For fun- I can give it 2 U.
Rick \$85. 861-7399 Anytime.

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ADORABLE BOY**

6'1" 160# Brn/blu smooth slim vers.
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Tall lean 33yr, 6', 160# 30" w ft.
Very very well hung 10x7. Hairy
Leg/chest sht trim brd-buzz cut
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Kicks back. Tom 415-256-6743

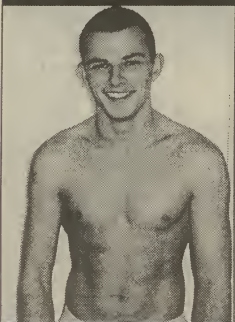
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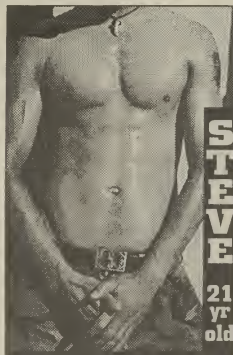
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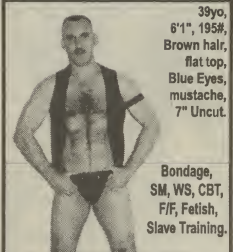
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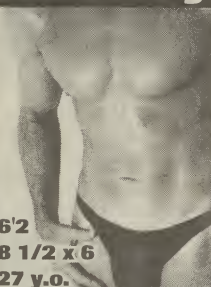
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8 1/2 x 6
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47 yo 6'3" gym-toned 200 lb dad

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Wants you on your knees for pec

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8 1/2" Got pump to make it Bigger 4

your viewing & dining pleasure 6'

175, 47-Beaut. Lean Muscular body

I plow or kick back Leather WS

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Tall Lean & Tasty 26yo Oral Top

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Friendly, masculine, guy w/thick meat

& nice big nuts. Clint(313-2531)24/7

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Muscular smooth bodybuilder.

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Hot Hairy Hung

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Goodlooking 26yo, very friendly

5'6", 150#, always horny \$80 in,

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Perfectly curved to fit

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28, Tall handsome, lean friendly

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22yrs 155lbs, 6ft, brn hair, smooth

fair skin escort/massage

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Fun - out call 707/869-0727

Hunk makes you obey on your knees.

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Versatile, gwm,33, 6', 185# Hdsm

9x6"cut.Blow on this, likes uncut men

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Satisfy your erotic desires

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22yrs 6',160#,Bi, smooth,uncut,

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me and be at my beck and call.

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5'7", 135#, swimmer bod. 23yrs

Friendly, open-mind

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Hot, In/out 597-1360

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Lean, Athletic Body-versatile

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Hardcore stud. A Ball busting 8.5X7

Verbal, spankings, etc. Cleancut 24hrs

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22 6' 145# Blond/Blue

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Little Bubble Butt bottom

26 5'3" tattoos

Yes I can take it! 582-3236

Tall and tan and young and lovely

Call Joe 25yr 648-2050 out only 6'

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10" THICKCUT UCLA JOCK
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Muscle stud will drive you to Heaven

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Smooth, toned w/o attitude

26 Y0 5'5" 135# 709-2261 *JOHN

CAPABLE

Hot big & muscular w/large steel rod

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19/20 YEAR OLD

BOTH AUSTRALIAN

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Or See our single ads

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By Sexy, 150lb. Dude, 8"

Versatile, No Body Fat

100% Discreet, 100% Ready

100% Worth It!

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videos: foot/cock/ass worship,

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Clean-cut, Muscle Hunk

In/Out \$100(415) 863-8932

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5'8", brown/brown,140# Smooth

Cleancut,call Chad at 241-9381

...So big, you'll choke!!!

BLOW THIS STUD

Handsome musclestud with thick 9"

tool. Jake * 415-679-3563

Hot*Horny Stud*33*8" Tool

KICKS BACK 4 U

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25yo Chn/Vnm 5'7",136# gdlkgng

masc,friendly,creativity, very discreet

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Good Mouth-Cute Butt

Big peks. Horny-Handsome 5'10,

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28,6'3"muscular,xxtra handsome No

disappointments.35+only/out 679-

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Hot 30yo, lean & hairy

Small expert hands

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Weekends/out only

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Smooth body,goodlooking muscle

stud, ripped abs, great pecs, buffed,

34. 5'11" 175#, 30"wst, 8" thick

Discreet,\$100/in,\$120 Out (415)

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MARK 790-5076

10 INC UNCUT

Blond, 20 yr old

Blue Eyes, 150#

5ft 10, Smooth

Gym toned, Swimmers

Bld

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MuscleAircondi+TopBotBoyFriend

26 hot Latin top,very handsom wants

you in limbo after 6 pm,weekends

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Hot young stud with a lean toned

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5'6",slim,smooth, fine, toned

20YO ASIAN BOY AND

21YO WHITE BOY

6'2", slim, cute, for strip/oral

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Slender, muscular smooth body

Clean-cut, masculine and gentle

Uncut true hard thick 10"

::TOP STUD::505-4199

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5'11" 150# smooth swmbuild very

cute call Kyle (415) 376-5136

GET WHAT YOU NEED

Uninhibited top ready to fill-up

5'10", 170#,8X6, tattooed, 31

Jake*Page 709-0338, In/Out

Playguy model Video Star

6ft 150 lbs. Defined toned, 23 yo

Swimmer's build George Hamilton

look-alike. Chiseled face, long eye-

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sationalist. 8" uncut, black hair, brn

eyes, beautiful, firm, tight sexy ass.

Hotels/Outcalls pref. Rocky 244-

0405

SEXY 22YO CUTE BOY

5'7" 145Lbs shaved head br eyes

very versatile/friendly/fun

\$100in/\$120 out. Neil 519-7727

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Sexy Swimmer's

Build, Blue eyes

Blonde, Euro Boy

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FIERCE REDHEAD

All American smooth tight lean

5'7" 135#,blue eyes, 36 yrs

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Size 12 feet, 21yr. 6'2". Out/SF

only. \$60 pgr. 739-9217. 24 Hrs.

PERSONALS

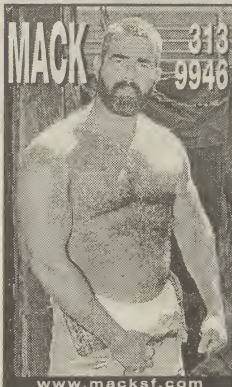
MODELS/ESCORTS

FRENCH MARINE

Bodybuilder,
220lbs, 6'1", 52ch, 21"A,
26 years.
New in town from
Paris, France
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Special cravings? Enjoy erotic
adventure tailored to your special kink;
Mild to edge. Private playroom.
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Both for \$120 Bpr: 834-8170 E34

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Masc, buffed, 44, 5'8", 150, tats
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MAN WITH A FIST-TOYS
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Firm. I'm great with beginners thru
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1471 Nob Hill E34

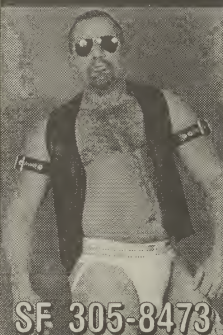
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POLISH-CZECH
28 Y/O 6' 150# Dark Hair, Blue Eyes
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KYLE • 20yrs • 5'10"
71/2 • 160 lb • Grn/Brn
Incredibly beautiful
face with smooth
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OH! DADDY



SF 305-8473

GREEK MODEL

Body Builder
220 Lbs, 6'1"
50" Ch, 20" Arms
28 years old
Pgr: 739-2391 E34

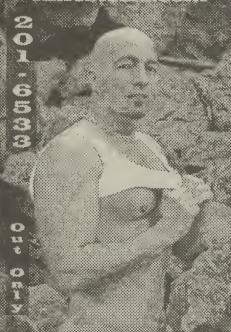
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X-construction wrkr, built like a
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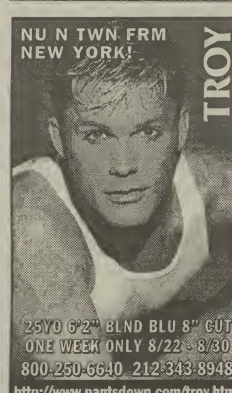
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☐ Money Order
☐ Visa
☐ MasterCard

Minimum \$10 charge
on Visa and MasterCard.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT

Card Number

Expiration Date

Signature

Name

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name

Telephone

Address

City

State

Zip

Number of Issues

Classification

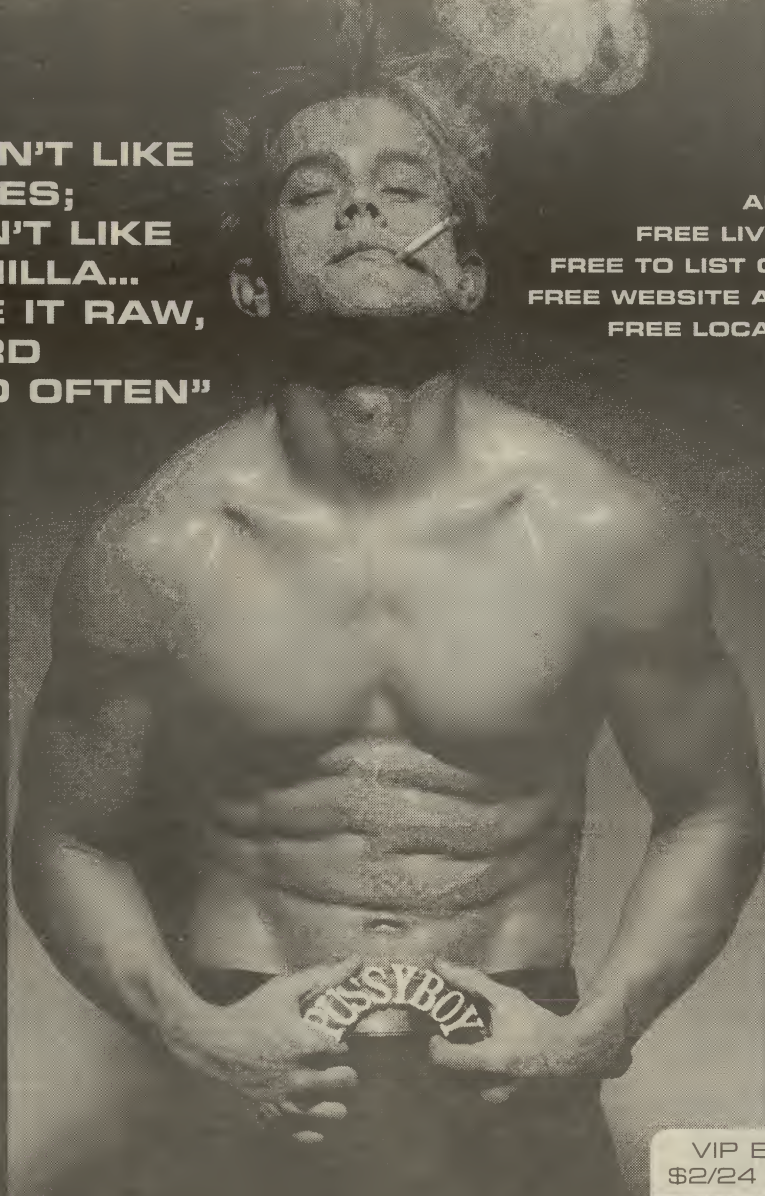
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